Economics IN ACTION

UC San Diego Department of Economics

Chair's Corner

Welcome to *Economics in Action*.

Alumni Spotlight

David R. Hansen, C.F.A. '03
Leveraging Success to Embrace Entrepreneurial Passion

Faculty Spotlight

Melissa Famulari

Helping undergraduates thrive.

Student Research

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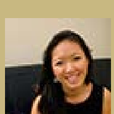
Federal Aid or Fiscal Burden: Do Temporary Federal Grants Influence Future State Taxes?



The Effect of Housing and Real Estate Wealth on Retirement Timing in the U.S.

Job Placement Strong for Grads

The department continues its reputation for producing and placing top-notch economists.

Faculty in the News

- In male-dominated Indian society, sex discrimination begins in womb: study
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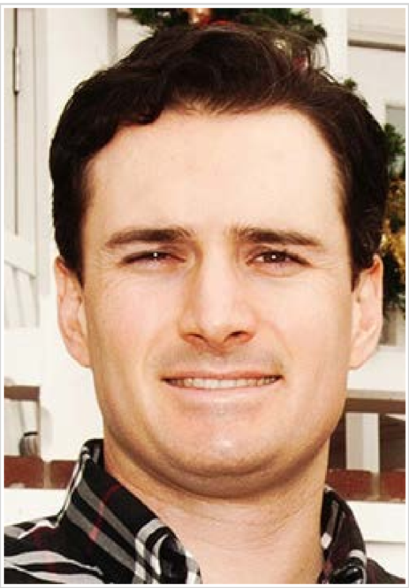
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

David R. Hansen, C.F.A. ’03

Leveraging Success to Embrace Entrepreneurial Passion

By Jenelle Dean



David Hansen is a 2003 graduate of the Department of Economics and Revelle College and former member of the UC San Diego golf team. During his senior year, he sought several positions with investment banks in New York as well as admission to several top law schools across the country.

Since the economy was still recovering from the dot-com crash, it was very challenging to obtain a job on Wall Street, and Hansen happily accepted admission to the USC Gould School of Law and completed his Juris Doctor in 2006. During law school, he still maintained a passion for investment and became a registered investment advisor in the State of California and started out managing money for family and friends.

Although he really enjoyed the financial markets, Hansen wanted to give practicing law a try. After passing the California State bar exam, he accepted a corporate associate position at Pillsbury LLP in Los Angeles and continued to run his investment firm. After practicing corporate law for two years and spending all of his free time analyzing investment opportunities, Hansen decided to devote his attention to the world of finance. Upon completing Level I of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam (he ultimately obtained the CFA charter), Hansen applied for positions at a few investment management firms in Los Angeles. He accepted an offer from the Investment Management Division at Goldman Sachs, starting as a private wealth advisor, and within four years became vice president. Such fast success led Hansen to feel confident in embracing his entrepreneurial and independent spirit. Last year he launched DRH Investments, which manages separate investment accounts for families and retirement plans. Hansen; his wife, Lindsey; and their son, Rhett, reside in Pacific Palisades, Calif.

What were your experiences like in the Department of Economics? Which faculty made an impact on you?

I had a great experience in the Department of Economics. Originally a math major when I arrived at UC San Diego, I took Econ 1 in the spring of my freshman year and found the class very interesting. I immediately changed my major to economics at the end of my freshman year and never looked back.

Some of the more memorable classes I had at UC San Diego included Professor Mark Machina’s Economics 100A, where students really had to work hard to do well in class and understand the math behind the concepts Professor Machina was teaching us. Econometrics with Professor Graham Elliott taught us how statistics can easily be manipulated, and that it is important to know the underlying sample data of any statistic and how the data was obtained. Anyone who wants to learn more about tax and corporate dividend policy should take Professor Roger Gordon’s tax class. His course is very relevant today with the fiscal issues in Washington, D.C.

What was your career trajectory? What are your future professional goals?

My primary goal is to grow and expand DRH Investments. With more than $33 million in assets in just a few months, I plan to have $75 million under management by the end of the year. This will enable me to hire analysts and other employees who I will work with for years to come. While a winding career path

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brought me to where I am today, I plan on running DRH Investments for the rest of my life and multiplying the wealth of my long-term-focused clients.

What are some of your favorite things about UC San Diego?

UC San Diego has one of the best locations in the world. La Jolla’s climate is phenomenal for outdoor activities; it was great for playing golf at Torrey Pines or heading down to the beach. I always miss the amazing Mexican food I ate on a weekly basis around San Diego. On campus, I have great memories of the Sun God Festival and relaxing with friends over beers at Porter’s Pub (just don’t drink between classes).

Any advice for economics students?

Many students do not realize how important grades are in determining your job opportunities out of college. Many companies will not interview students unless they have a 3.0, 3.5 (or even higher) GPA. Most of my friends who did well in economics treated school like a job. They showed up to every class, paid attention, did the assigned reading – all of which led them to performing well on exams. Unless you are extremely gifted, there are no shortcuts. You need to put in the hours to do well (especially for Professor Machina’s Econ 100A class).

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CHAIR'S CORNER

Chair’s Corner

Welcome to this edition of *Economics in Action*. We are in the midst of an initiative that could lead to big changes on our campus and in our department. UC San Diego’s new chancellor, Pradeep K. Khosla, is conducting a strategic planning process to chart the future of the campus. I am a member of the chancellor’s Strategic Planning Council, which meets once a month with our outside consultant, McKinsey & Company. During these meetings, we draw upon the insights that have come out of numerous department and town hall meetings to develop visions for the future of UC San Diego. We have been delighted by the energy and ideas that all parts of the campus have contributed. As an outgrowth of this effort, the Department of Economics is also developing its own strategic plans.

After several years of few opportunities to hire new faculty members in the department, I am delighted to report that we have hired four new junior faculty members for next year. Kudos go to our recruitment chair, Jim Rauch, who has a track record of many successful recruitment seasons. Our fresh doctoral hires are microtheorist Simone Galperti from Northwestern University, general equilibrium and finance theorist Alexis Toda from Yale University, and macroeconomist Johannes Wieland from UC Berkeley. In addition, we have hired development and growth economist David Lagakos, who earned his doctorate at UCLA and who has been an assistant professor at Arizona State University for several years. His wife, Natalia Ramondo, who is an international economist, will be joining the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies. We are very excited to have such a large group of talented junior faculty members. At the same time, we are sad to lose two faculty members. David Miller will be joining the University of Michigan, and Patrik Guggenberger will be joining Penn State.

As I write this, I am preparing to step down as department chair this summer. Jim Rauch will take over on July 1. Jim started as an assistant professor in the department in 1986 and worked his way up through the ranks to full professor. He brings a wealth of institutional memory with him to the chair’s office. He is well known on campus and well respected in his field. While I am pleased to have been of service and hope that I have helped strengthen and move the department forward, I am excited to return to my teaching and research, secure in the knowledge that the department is in good hands.

Graduate Program

The graduate program passed its external review with flying colors, garnering praise from the reviewers for the “dramatic” increase in quality over the last ten years. The **2014 *U.S. News & World Report’s Best Graduate Schools* guidebook** continues to rank our doctoral program highly (15th) with extra high marks going to our econometrics program (4th).

Thanks to Michelle White for her assistance coordinating this year's job market. A report on the job market outcome for our doctoral students can be found **here**.

Yixiao Sun again led our admissions committee to read more than 800 applications for our doctoral program. There are 20 students in our incoming graduate class, and 13 of them are from outside the United States.

Undergraduate Program

This past academic year, the department made great strides in expanding the professional development offered to our undergraduates. In the fall, alumnus and Economics Leadership Council member Mark Hoffman visited campus to share with students the professional side of careers in consulting. With the guidance of the ELC, the department also launched a new professional skills course, Econ 173AL, an applied finance laboratory designed to train students about real-world application of theoretical tools learned in our financial markets course. This month the department welcomes James Sobieski, who will share skills and knowledge he has obtained throughout his professional career, focusing on the universal importance of professional ethics in business.

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We also had another successful year with the Rising Leaders Program. Selected students placed at the Bank of Singapore, Credit Suisse and Citigroup. We are proud to continue the program into a third year and are currently in the selection process for the 2013-14 Rising Leaders.

Outreach and Alumni

We enjoyed seeing many alumni at our reception at the ASSA conference in January. We are excited about our **2013 Economics Roundtable** series, which will feature a talk by UC San Diego's own Thad Kousser on Aug. 9, and John Williams on Oct. 30.

Sincerely,

Valerie

Valerie Ramey, Chair

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Famulari

Helping Undergraduates Thrive

Melissa Famulari joined the Department of Economics in 2004 as vice chair of undergraduate studies and has implemented many initiatives to help students thrive at UC San Diego. She spearheaded the revamping of the undergraduate program in 2007 and started the Undergraduate Economic Society, which she advises, and a chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon (the international economics honor society). She also negotiates directly with publishers to produce custom textbooks for our core classes at substantial savings.

Finding Economics

Melissa was born in Newark, N.J., and spent her elementary years in South Orange, N.J. As a child, she did a lot of baby-sitting – including taking care of Elisabeth Shue, who went on to make the movie *Adventures in Babysitting* – and saved every penny toward the goal of purchasing a horse. When Melissa was in seventh grade, her family relocated to her great-grandmother's 200-year-old stone farmhouse in Phoenixville, Pa., and she realized her dream of buying her horse, Gina.

Melissa left rural Pennsylvania to attend college and explored many educational options before earning her bachelor's degree in economics at Temple University. She started out as a communications major, quickly decided it was not for her, and in true undergraduate fashion, took introductory classes offered for nearly every major. The survey paid off, as she recalled: "I really enjoyed philosophy and math. Then I took my first economics class. I knew right away that I had found my new major. I loved everything about economics: the rigor, the models to organize one's thoughts about complex issues, and the important and interesting questions economists asked."

Melissa continued her education, entering a doctoral program at the University of Washington and specializing in labor and health economics. After completing her degree, she worked as a research economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and then built a twelve-year career as an educator and researcher at the University of Texas at Austin.

In Support of Undergraduates

Melissa came to UC San Diego to manage and improve the undergraduate program. She said, "I have always been interested in research, teaching students, teaching pedagogy – learning how to be a better and more effective instructor – and curriculum design. The position at UC San Diego was perfect for someone with my interests." Melissa holds weekly office hours that are open to our 2,500 undergraduates; they can offer feedback on their experience and obtain guidance on applying to graduate school or building their careers. She also teaches intermediate microeconomics, the senior essay seminar and our health economics courses. According to Melissa, the best thing about working with these young minds is "their enthusiasm, ideas and potential."

To increase the information and opportunities for students, Melissa designed our Senior Exit survey, which gathers feedback on our undergraduate program and information about what our graduates are doing, and worked with the undergraduate team to start the Undergraduate Blog to post the results of the surveys, information on job openings and internships, and announcements from student organizations. She also initiated the annual Undergraduate Student and Faculty Mixer and the Grad-Undergrad Student Mixer.

Melissa enjoys living San Diego with her two children, Toni and Matt. She travels and likes to spend time with her extended family: "I look forward to two weeks each summer when we meet at my parents' cabin

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on a lake in the Adirondack mountains."

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Federal Aid or Fiscal Burden

Do Temporary Federal Grants Influence Future State Taxes?

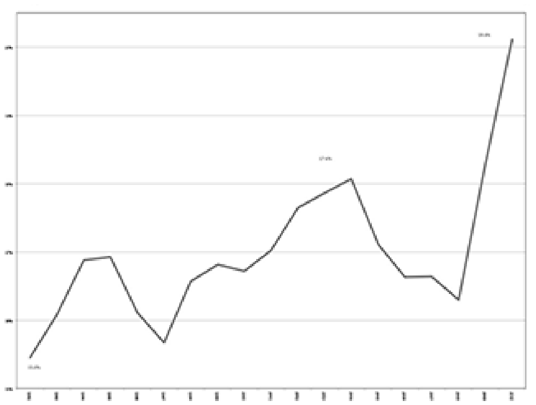
By Andrew Chamberlain

Grants-in-Aid: Short-Term Solution or Long-Term Handicap?

Most state budgets rely heavily on grants from the federal government. These "grants-in-aid" have long been a centerpiece of America's fiscal system, but in recent decades they have grown dramatically in both size and scope.

In 2010, federal grants to states reached an all-time high in inflation-adjusted terms of $610 billion, or about $1,975 per person. Today, federal grants account for 20 cents of every dollar spent by state and local governments, influencing a wide variety of local programs, including health care, education, transportation, police, environmental policy and more.

Conventional wisdom among lawmakers is that grant recipients are given a "free lunch" from Washington. Federal aid allows states to expand schools, police and roads without relying on politically unpopular local taxes. However, as federal grants have expanded in recent decades, some lawmakers have begun questioning whether increased reliance on temporary federal aid has a permanent effect on state budgets.



FEDERAL GRANTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF STATE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETS, 1992-2010. Click graph to enlarge.

This issue has come to the forefront in recent years as the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus bill relied heavily on federal grants to states, raising questions about the long-term effects of the bill on state finances. In one dramatic example, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford attempted to refuse federal stimulus grants arguing that "[w]e simply cannot afford to base 10 percent of our state budget on [federal grant] money that will disappear in two years' time."

Using Economic Theory to Assess Long-Term Effects

My research explores the following question: When temporary federal grants for programs like highways, police and education expire, does state spending revert back to its pregrant levels? Or do temporary grants-in-aid give rise to permanent state spending obligations that ultimately require higher local taxes (known as "own-source revenue") in the long run?

As a typical example, consider a three-year federal block grant from the Department of Homeland Security that puts five new patrol officers on a state's highways. The temporary grant helps finance the hiring and training of new officers. But what happens when federal aid expires in three years? Do states eliminate the officers' positions? Or do they retain them and allow local tax revenue to rise in order to finance them?

To answer this question, my research begins with economic theory. How should temporary federal aid affect state tax levels? Using a simple theoretical model based on the famous median voter theorem, I develop algebraic expressions for how state taxes and spending should evolve over time under the assumption that temporary federal aid might leave a persistent footprint on state budgets. The keys to the model are two parameters: the fraction of each $1 of federal aid that's actually spent by states, and the fraction of today's temporary grant-induced spending that carries over into tomorrow's state budget.

To assess whether temporary federal grants have had a persistent effect on state taxes in recent decades, I estimate these two parameters using a large panel data set of U.S. federal grants and state taxes from 1981 to 2010 from the U.S. Census Bureau. I use two econometric approaches: ordinary least squares (OLS) with fixed effects, and instrumental variables (IV), which employ two measures of state political power in the U.S. Congress as "instruments" that predict the flow of federal grants to states.

My results tend to support the view that federal aid indeed has a lasting effect on state budgets. In both OLS and IV estimates, I find temporary federal aid has a persistent effect on state tax and own-source revenue. In my basic specification, each $1 of federal grants predicts an eventual state tax increase of about $0.04 to $0.17. Most of that increase appears in the form of higher state personal income tax revenue and corporate income tax revenue. Sales and excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol were unaffected.

Interestingly, I find some evidence that states with statutory tax and expenditure limitations (TELs) and supermajority voting rules on taxes are less likely to exhibit this type of side effect from federal grants. I also examined grants from a variety of federal agencies to see if some types of grants are more persistent in state budgets than others. Of the agencies examined, grants from the Department of Health and Human Services – which administers a large fraction of all federal aid through state Medicaid grants – and the Department of Transportation both had a large and statistically significant effect on state taxes in future years.

Application

An important question in interpreting these results is *Are the persistent effects of federal grants on state budgets unintended or on purpose?* Unfortunately, my research cannot resolve this important question. For example, some federal grants may be designed as pilot projects intended to be taken over by states in the future – a case of fully intended "budget persistence." However, there are also truly temporary grants that inadvertently create their own political constituencies – such as grants hiring new state workers that may be more difficult to dismiss than hire – leaving behind a lasting but unintended imprint on state budgets.

As states weigh the pros and cons of accepting federal grants for health, education and transportation programs, it's worth keeping these results in mind. Federal grants help states provide valuable services today, but may have surprising effects on state taxes long after aid has expired.

Andrew Chamberlain is a third-year doctoral student at UC San Diego. His study, "The Effect of Federal Intergovernmental Grants on State Taxes: New Evidence of Budget Persistence" is available at ***http://iacs5.ucsd.edu/~adchambe/WP1.pdf****.*

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The Effect of Housing and Real Estate Wealth on Retirement Timing in the U.S.

By Anqi (Angie) Chen

Class Overview

The Economics Senior Seminar sequence (Econ 191 A-B) has been one of my most challenging yet most rewarding experiences at UC San Diego. It allowed me to practically apply knowledge from various economics courses to something extremely tangible and interesting. There are many reasons that I found the Econ 191 sequence to be worthwhile. The creativity in topic selection and research design allowed everyone to learn a great deal about various areas of economics, including micro, macro, game theory, theoretical, behavioral and developmental. The various in-class presentations allowed for intellectual discussion and everyone very quickly became invested in the success of one another's research. I would definitely recommend this sequence, not only for motivated students interested in receiving honors but for anyone interested in a "taste test" of a doctorate in economics, developing a better understanding of STATA, working closely with professors, or simply participating in intellectual discussions with other like-minded students.

Research Process and Findings

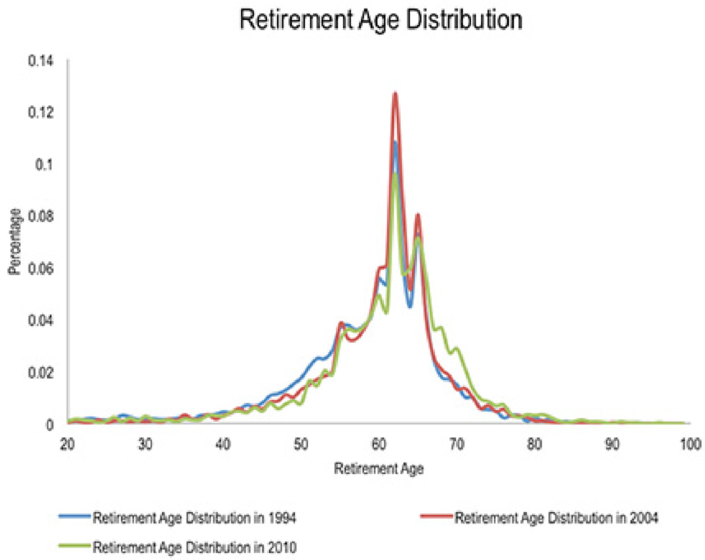
My paper investigates the effect that changes in housing and real estate wealth had on the retirement age of individuals. After taking a labor economics class, I was very curious about the effects on wealth that different types of assets had on individual labor market decisions. The housing boom and bust was a special topic of interest to me.

During the housing boom between 1995 and 2006, more than five trillion dollars in bubble-wealth was created. However, in the years of the subsequent bust, much of this wealth was lost. In 2012 approximately 65 percent of Americans were homeowners, and the creation and loss of wealth could have significant impact on the balance sheets of households, which could influence retirement decisions.

My paper uses RAND's version of the University of Michigan's Health and Retirement Study data from 1994 to 2010 to construct continuous work histories of participating individuals. Hazard models were then used to regress these work histories against various other covariates to determine the effect of housing and real-estate wealth on retirement age.

As shown in the graph below, when comparing the proportional ages of retirement before the housing boom, at the peak of the housing boom, and after the housing market crash, there are distinctive increases in proportionate retirement at the ages of 62 and 65 during the boom years. This proportion decreases after the market crash, and there is a noticeable increase in the proportion of individuals who retired after the age of 65. However, without controlling for other factors, it is unclear what the true determinants of these trends were.

The proportional hazard estimates allowed me to control for various demographic, health, geographic, financial and time variables. These models showed that increases



Click graph to enlarge.

in the net values of different housing and real-estate wealth variables resulted in a decrease in retirement hazard while increases in the change in percent of net values of housing and real estate indicators resulted in an increase in retirement hazard. I also found that fluctuations in the change in percent of net values have a more considerable impact on retirement age than fluctuations in the net values of housing and real-estate wealth.

Special Thanks

There are many people that I would like to thank for their help and continual support through the process of this paper. I would like to thank Professor Starr for his guidance through the research process. From explaining the very basics of how to structure a research paper, to helping with the development of a theoretical model, to directing me to relevant resources, his recommendations developed the foundations of the paper. I would also like to thank Professor Dahl for directing me through my empirical work and helping to legitimize my regression results. A special thanks also to my fellow Econ 191 classmates for suggestions and discussions. Finally, I need to give a huge thanks to Professor Telyukova for the countless meetings, interesting discussions, research direction, and for always posing relevant questions. My paper would not have been the same without the help of everyone!

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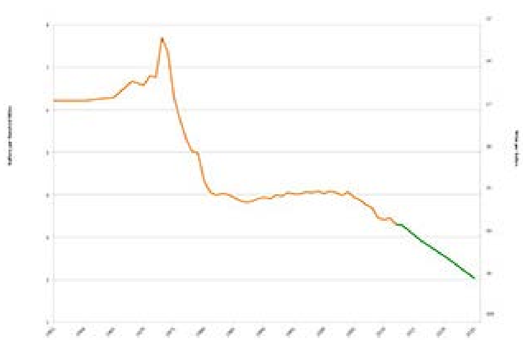
By Mark Jacobsen, Ph.D.

The U.S. is about to embark on the most ambitious regulation of gasoline use since the 1978 Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. The figure below plots fuel use among new vehicles sold in the U.S. since 1955 and includes the requirements under new standards through 2025.



Gasoline Use Among New Vehicles: History and Policy to 2025. Click graph to enlarge.

Among the most striking features in the figure is a sharp decline in fuel use following oil price increases in the 1970s. Average fuel use fell from more than seven gallons for a 100-mile trip to less than four gallons in 1987. The drop is followed by a very slow rebound in fuel use, ended by the 2005 spike in gasoline prices. Economists largely agree that the slow increase through the 1990s and early 2000s would have been much faster without the presence of CAFE standards: The regulation held the fuel use of two broad categories, "passenger cars" and "light trucks," almost exactly constant. The small increase reflects a compositional shift away from passenger cars and into SUVs, pickups, and minivans (all classified as light trucks).

What's coming next? The green line displays the ambitious round of standards being phased in through 2025. These extend the gasoline-saving trends that began in 2005 and will mandate reductions in average fuel use to only two gallons for the same 100-mile trip. Equivalently, new cars will be required to achieve an average fuel economy rating of about 50 miles per gallon after accounting for various provisions in the rules.

Accident Safety

Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 40 and cause more than 30,000 fatalities each year. In spite of an increasing number of miles driven advances in automobile technology, trauma care and highway design have been steadily reducing this number from its peak of 55,000 in 1972. Given the extremely large cost of fatal accidents, even small changes in their frequency per mile can have important economic consequences. My research described here considers changes in fatality risks in the

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context of efforts to reduce U.S. gasoline consumption.

Mark Jacobsen, Ph.D.

It is often argued that policies to save gasoline incentivize smaller and lighter vehicles, which in many accidents offer less protection to their occupants. However, it is also true that small SUVs are much less likely than large SUVs to cause a fatality in another vehicle. Fuel-saving changes in the fleet then also offer the potential to improve average safety.

My estimates here will involve three key components: estimates of how well each type of vehicle protects its own occupants in accidents (single-car accidents are particularly important, making up more than half of fatalities), estimates of the risk each vehicle type imposes on others when the pair combine in an accident, and the risks brought by individual drivers who select into different vehicle types as policy changes. This last point is essential when working with real-world accident data, and I find it is pivotal to the overall results.

Effects of Gasoline Policy

The table below shows four alternative policies directed at saving gasoline, arranged from most to least flexible. I first summarize how each of the four works and then discuss my results on safety.

Accident Fatalities and Gasoline Policy

	Gasoline tax	Single fuel economy standard	Original CAFE standards	New "footprint" based CAFE
Efficiency cost in car markets	Lowest	→	→	Highest
Effect on accident fatalities	**Fewer** (through a reduction in miles driven)	**Zero change** (cars become smaller, but several effects on risk cancel each other out)	**Increased** (mismatched and single-car accident risks are worsened)	**Zero change** (new standards intentionally keep all vehicle sizes about the same)

A gasoline tax is the most flexible – and least costly – policy since it encourages gasoline to be saved through many channels at once: Consumers will drive less and also choose cars that are more efficient along all dimensions. The vehicles chosen under a gasoline tax will be smaller and lighter; contain more efficient engine technologies; and include fewer SUVs, pickups, and minivans.

In spite of its economic efficiency, a new gasoline tax faces considerable political opposition from both parties. Current policy, therefore, focuses on car choice, directly regulating the fleet of cars that manufacturers produce and sell. The most flexible standard would be a single rule that simply requires a higher average efficiency among all vehicles sold. This policy appears second in the table and would again encourage improvements along all dimensions of car choice: in technology, smaller vehicle sizes, and fewer trucks and SUVs.

The original U.S. CAFE standards appear third. Over the years these rules have encouraged new technologies as well as smaller and lighter vehicles, but (for reasons other than reducing fuel use) they did not encourage switching away from trucks and SUVs. By omitting this channel, they must be stricter along the other dimensions and so are less efficient than a single average rule.

Finally, the provisions of new fuel economy rules through 2025 are the least flexible of all (along the dimensions above). They base the required fuel economy for each vehicle on its physical “footprint,” meaning that smaller cars are held to tighter standards. This takes away the incentive for manufacturers to change fleet composition toward smaller vehicles or fewer trucks and instead focuses gasoline saving almost exclusively on technological advances.

Why move to such an inflexible policy? A key motivation was safety: If features like engine technology and aerodynamics are the only changes, then the outward composition of sizes and shapes, and accident outcomes will be held roughly constant. This result appears in the last row of the table under the footprint policy.

The safety outcomes of the first three policies depend on the way fleet composition evolves. One of the more important features I capture is the changing distribution of people opting into different vehicle classes. For example, a single standard will encourage some minivan drivers (who I find have only one-third of the average fatal accident risk) to switch to large sedans. This will improve the average risk imposed on others by sedan drivers, altering the distribution of fatal accidents throughout the fleet. Similar changes (for both better and worse) occur across all vehicle classes and are accounted in the safety estimates in the table.

Perhaps most encouragingly, I find that a simple, single fuel economy standard involves almost exactly zero change in the total number of fatalities. This comes from a combination of offsetting effects in the fleet and happens in spite of the fact that vehicles become much smaller and lighter on average.

The result for the historical CAFE standards is not so favorable: This rule is already less flexible and more costly than a single standard or gasoline tax, and I also find it creates the worst accident outcomes among the four policies. Much of the negative effect comes through a parallel shift to smaller cars and smaller light trucks, maintaining a mismatch in two-vehicle accidents while worsening risks in single-vehicle accidents.

My findings overall suggest that a broad variety of policy options, including the new standards going into effect now, offer the possibility to reduce gasoline use with no change or even slight improvements in safety. Care must be taken, however, to avoid restrictions on policy that can worsen mismatched accident outcomes.

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Economics IN ACTION
UC San Diego Department of Economics

Job Placement Strong for Grads

By the Department of Economics

As in previous years, we had a large number of students (18) on the job market, including two students who obtained jobs before the market started. Among them, eight accepted assistant professor positions; two accepted postdoctoral fellowships; two took research positions in the federal government; and four accepted private sector positions at a bank, two economics consulting firms, and a research group at a private firm. Academic placements in the U.S. included UC Davis; Tufts University; Boston University;University of Missouri (where the economics department has a large group of UC San Diego graduates); University of South Carolina; and University of Washington, Bothell campus. Two additional academic placements were at top-ranked universities in China: Tsinghua University and Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. In addition, one student who was not on the market was placed at Carnegie Mellon University.

More than half of our students accepted academic positions at research institutions:

This set includes representatives from across the entire array of fields. Labor economists Sam Bazzi and Crystal Zhan accepted positions at Boston University and University of South Carolina, respectively. Behavioral and experimental economist Laura Gee landed a position at Tufts University. Alex Imas, another behavioral and experimental economist who wasn't even on the market, secured a postdoc and faculty position at Carnegie Mellon University. Health economist Matthew Niedzwiecki will continue his research after accepting a Robert Woods Foundation fellowship at UC Berkeley. Econometrics specialists Dalia Ghanem and David Kaplan found great matches at UC Davis and the University of Missouri. Macroeconomists fared well internationally: Chim Lau will join the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, and Ji Zhang will be moving to Tsinghua PBC School of Finance. Business economists also accepted impressive placements: Michael Furchtgott will serve as a postdoc at the Stanford Business School while Anny Wei heads further north to the University of Washington Business School in Bothell, Washington. Our sole microeconomist, Lucas Siga, is heading east to NYU Abu Dhabi.

The remaining will begin exciting careers as researchers in first-rate government, nonprofit or private sector institutions:

Government opportunities in both the U.S. and abroad attracted several students. Microeconomist Troy Kravitz, labor economist John McAdams and trade specialist Aaron Schroeder will be in Washington, D.C., at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the Federal Trade Commission, and the newly founded Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, respectively. Macroeconomist Ashley Hooper is heading to New York to work for Deutche Bank.

Several applied microeconomics candidates were recruited to positions in private-sector organizations that pair well with their research interests. Dallas Dotter, a labor economist specializing in education policy and human capital investments, joined Mathematica Policy Research. Econometrician Kelly Paulson is joining Amazon. Microeconomist Michael Futch and environmental economist Jarrod Welch accepted positions with CRA Consulting in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to the graduate students and the faculty who supported them for these successful job market outcomes! Thank you for all the hard work that justifies the department's continuing reputation for producing top-notch economists.

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Aug 9 — Economics Roundtable: Thad Kousser, Professor, UC San Diego

Sept 9-10 — 2013 All-California Labor Economics Conference

Oct 3 — Economics Roundtable: John Williams, President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

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