

The University of Vermont



Department of Economics
2020 Honors and Awards

Welcome to our 2020 Honors and Awards Celebration

- *Department Honors – Madeleine Bowe and Nicholas Ridder*
- *Freeman Saltus Award – Juliana Landis*
- *John H. Converse Award – Nicholas Ridder*
- *W. William Gersten Scholarship – Joshua Audette and Courtney Brady*
- *Philipp H. Lohman Scholarship – Joshua Audette and Brianne Smith*
- *Milton J. Nadworny Award – Caleb Thibault, Oliver Tidswell and Rachel Wiener*
- *Amato-Nadworny Award – Brynn Connell and Oliver Minshall*
- *Mark J. Zwynenburg Scholarship – Sam B. Meneses*
- *Omicron Delta Epsilon*

Department Honors

Each year we invite our senior majors with GPAs in economics of at least 3.50 to submit a portfolio of what they feel is their best research paper in economics. They include a cover essay explaining how the paper fits into their intellectual development as economists.

The submissions are judged blind, and a committee of faculty members selects the best submissions. This year, two students were selected for department honors.



Recipient: **Madeleine Bowe**

From Maine. Minors in Mathematics and in Psychological Science. Recipient of the Amato-Nadworny Award in 2019. She writes, "I began my study of economics in high school with an introduction to macroeconomics. I was interested in the material and decided to take principles of microeconomics during my first semester at UVM. Although I came in as an undeclared major, I declared a major in economics after a few weeks. I felt connected to the field. I appreciated how the material managed to often feel intuitive but simultaneously answered questions I had never considered before." Her professors say, "She is brilliant and a pleasure to work with," and, "Maddie is one of the smartest and most organized students I have known. She is always on top of everything in class and her work is always perfect or nearly so." "She has been at the very top of every class in which she has been my student. Always ahead of the curve when it comes to assignments and is well prepared for exams. Maddy is a pleasure to have in class; a real star student!"

Maddie's paper was a successful replication of "Population Control Policies and Fertility Convergence" by Tiloka de Silva and Silvana Tenreyro (2017). This paper examined how government fertility policies, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, education levels, urbanization, and other factors impacted the rapid decline in global fertility rates. Maddie conducted a logarithmic regression analysis to determine that a country's population control policies are able to account for the gaps in the declining fertility rate which are not attributable to socioeconomic factors.



Recipient: **Nicholas Ridder**

From Massachusetts. Second major in Mathematics. He writes, "Studying economics helped me conceptualize and understand the world around me from an economic perspective. I have learned that even the most difficult economic models can be understood (at least fundamentally) by examining decisions at the margin. This has helped me refine my ideas not only about the businesses world but also about human behavior, and has allowed me to become a smarter consumer and also a more efficient learner." His professors say, "When Nick was my TA, he was completely dedicated to student success. My students wrote answers in class in response to a news article, and his job was to put them into alphabetical order. He did that, but he also took it

upon himself to prepare a four-page handout explaining the most common misconceptions about the economic models, including beautifully rendered graphs. I was very impressed." "Nick was a great research assistant on a complex project. He also has been a leader in every class in which he was a student in my class. He is very hard working and combined with his history of doing well in prior classes has encyclopedic knowledge of most of the central topics in economics and mathematics."

Nick undertook a replication of "The Role of Entrepreneurship in Economic Growth," by D. Smith (2010). Smith found that an increase in entrepreneurship increased gross national income (GNI). Nick conducted multiple least squares, censored regression, and two-way panel analysis on various samples, and found that the coefficient on entrepreneurship is positive, yet not statistically significant. In some analyses, entrepreneurship was associated with a lower level of GNI per capita. Smith (2010)'s findings were replicated, but were not found to be robust.

Freeman Saltus Award

This award is for a senior with outstanding academic achievement. It was established in 1950 as a bequest from Freeman M. Saltus.

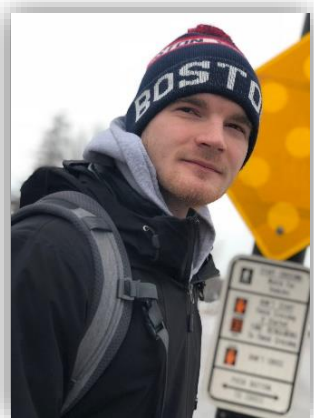
Recipient: **Juliana Landis**



From Pennsylvania. Second major in Environmental Sciences concentrating in Ecological Design. Received the Milton J. Nadworny Award in 2019. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Her professor describes her as “a fantastic student. Always well prepared for class and very curious. In my seminar, she always had great insights about the readings (which were difficult journal articles). She also gave the best paper presentation--the research question was well explained, as well as the hypotheses, the testable implications of each hypotheses, the research design, and the key findings. Her curiosity for economic issues and her keen economic intuition will take her a long way.”

John H. Converse Award

This award is for a senior with outstanding academic achievement. It is named in honor of John H. Converse, through whose efforts economics began to be taught at UVM in 1899.



Recipient: **Nicholas Ridder**

From Massachusetts. Second major in Mathematics. He writes, "Studying economics helped me conceptualize and understand the world around me from an economic perspective. I have learned that even the most difficult economic models can be understood (at least fundamentally) by examining decisions at the margin. This has helped me refine my ideas not only about the businesses world but also about human behavior, and has allowed me to become a smarter consumer and also a more efficient learner." His professors say, "When Nick was my TA, he was completely dedicated to student success. My students wrote answers in class in response to a news article, and

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S. William Gersten Scholarship

This award recognizes the high achievement economics majors from out-of-state. S. William Gersten was a 1965 UVM graduate in economics, who went on to a successful career on Wall Street.

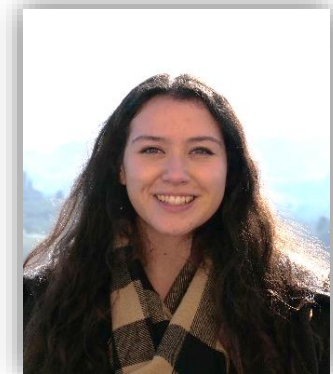


Recipient: **Joshua R. Audette**

From Minnesota. Minor in Chinese. Received the Gersten Award in 2018, 2019, and this year. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa. This spring, Josh prepared a gentrification analysis for Burlington as an intern supervised by Champlain Housing Trust. His professor says: "Simply one of the best, brightest and dedicated students at UVM. Always conscientious, helpful to other students and has a knack for coming up with straight-forward explanations of complex problems."

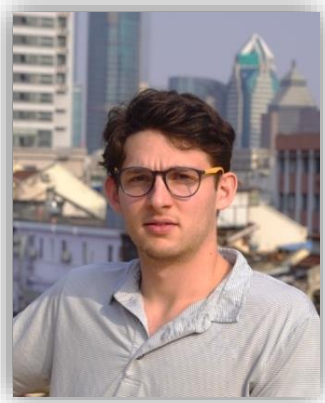
Recipient: **Courtney Brady**

From Pennsylvania. Second major in French. Minor in Business Administration. Received the Milton J. Nadworny Award in 2019. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Her professors say, "Courtney was probably the best SI Leader I've worked with--super conscientious and very popular with the students," and "She is extremely hard working and persistent. A pleasure to work with!"



Philipp H. Lohman Scholarship

This award for an outstanding economics major is named for Professor Lohman who served as professor and chair of the economics department from 1945-1963.



Recipient: **Joshua R. Audette**

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Recipient: **Brianne Smith**

From New York. Second major in Political Science. Brianne did volunteer tax assistance as an intern this spring until the pandemic. Her supervisor said: "Brianne was very dependable, professional, and thorough in her work. She learned very quickly and became one of the key volunteers we depended on." It was clear that she found the work very meaningful and gratifying.



Milton J. Nadworny Award

The Milton J. Nadworny award is named for the late Prof. Nadworny, who taught labor economics in our department for over 30 years, was a department chair, and a professional labor arbitrator.

This award is for a junior economics major who exhibits academic merit, independence of mind, determination, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to human welfare.



Recipient: **Caleb Thibault**

From Williamsville, Vermont. Second major in Business Administration. He writes, "Economics drew my captivation because it shows why people respond to certain actions whether it be a change in price or tax rates. I am always frustrated to see how much some people in our country are forced to choose between physiological needs, and economics also can assist in showing how to minimize these choices while maximizing welfare."



Recipient: **Oliver Tidswell**

From Illinois. Second major in Business Administration. He writes, “My greatest passion in life is a love for all things outdoors and was a significant factor in choosing to attend UVM. A good portion of my time is spent working as the treasurer for the UVM Outing Club. Through the management of budgeted, fundraised and donated funds amounting to over six figures, I strive to provide affordable, accessible trips for all UVM students. In addition to my role as treasurer, I am a trained wilderness first responder and lead sea-kayaking and backpacking trips for UVM. I believe that socioeconomic factors should have no bearing over an individual’s access to the many opportunities available at UVM and strive to realize that belief in my daily life.”

Recipient: **Rachel Wiener**

From Pennsylvania. Second major in Health and Society. She was studying in Rome this semester and writes, “I had never traveled to Europe before. I arrived in a new country knowing no one in hopes of learning more about different cultures and experiencing a new way of life. I also have to stay determined to speak Italian and be willing to make mistakes instead of resorting to speaking English.” In addition to other activities, she has been a research assistant with Professor Seguino on racial disparities in traffic enforcement in Vermont, and she writes, “Rather than just read passages in a textbook, I have searched for opportunities to use my passion to bring about real change, one small step at a time.”



Amato-Nadworny Award

This scholarship is named in honor of the late Milton J. Nadworny, who taught in the economics department of UVM from 1952 to 1986, and was also chair of the department for part of that time. He was an expert in the field of labor relations and was for many years a professional arbitrator.

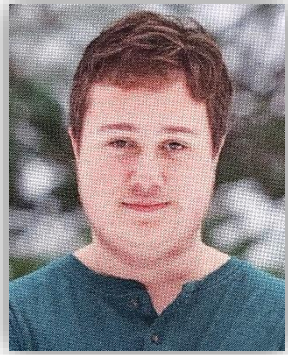
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Amato have generously continued to support the fund in honor of Professor Nadworny.

The Amato-Nadworny Scholarship is for a junior economics major who has demonstrated leadership in and out of the classroom and who has shown strong academic achievement.

Recipient: **Brynn Connell**



From Pennsylvania. Second major in Political Science. Among other activities, she is an intern at the Vermont Commission on Women, a governor's commission devoted to furthering women's rights in Vermont. She writes, "I have had the incredible experience of researching Vermont laws and helping edit and publish a handbook on workplace sexual harassment to be distributed to public and private workplaces in Vermont. The opportunity to learn what my rights are as a woman in Vermont and also to educate others on their rights has been incredibly fulfilling." Her professor says "She continues to exceed requirements during the coronavirus crisis and is a pleasure to work with."



Recipient: **Oliver Minshall**

From Norwich, Vermont. Second major in Philosophy. He writes, "I am a double major in philosophy and economics because when forced to choose between two fascinating disciplines, I refused to chose one over the other. Philosophically, I am a devoted communitarian dedicated to the proposition that the point of education whether in philosophy, economics or any other discipline is to enrich the common good and improve the lives of our fellow man."

Mark J. Zwynenburg Scholarship

This scholarship was established in honor of the late Mark J. Zwynenburg by his parents John and Barbara. Mark graduated from UVM in 1981 with a double major in political science and economics and was killed along with 278 others in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 108 over Lockerbie Scotland in 1988.

The Zwynenburg Scholarship is for an outstanding junior economics major with a second major in political science or history.



Recipient: **Samantha B. Meneses**

From New Jersey. Second major in Political Science. She received the Zwynenburg Award last year as well. Samantha was a member of the UVM Fed Challenge team that competed in Boston in Fall 2019. She worked on the labor market portion of the presentation. Her professor says: "One of the brightest and hard working of her cohort. Very bright, dedicated and with deep interests in the field of economics; in short, she gets it."

Omicron Delta Epsilon

Omicron Delta Epsilon is an international honors society that aims to recognize scholastic attainment and outstanding achievement in economics. It is one of the world's largest academic honor societies, with branches in the US, Canada, Australia, the UK, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Egypt, and France. In order to become members, students must have completed at least 18 credits in economics with a GPA in economics of 3.3 or higher.

Katie Calcaterra

Brynn Connell

Rachel Ann Conner

Allison Feeney

Christopher Keller

Juliana M. Landis

Taylor Lanners

Sam B. Meneses

Nicholas Ridder

Brianne Smith

Erin Suler

Caleb Thibault

Jackson W. Turek

Conclusion

All of the students receiving honors will be able to find mention of their award on our department website. Recipients of the Nadworny, Amato-Nadworny, Lohman, Zwynenburg, Skroback, Converse, and Saltus Awards will have their names on plaques in the main economics office, along with all the other wonderful students who have received these awards over the years.