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May 2009

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro Fall 2008-present

EDUCATION

Ph. D. Economics, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri May 2008
M.A. Economics, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri December 2003
B.S. Economics, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky (Magna Cum Laude) May 2002

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics

DISSERTATION

“Essays on the Economic Causes of Obesity.”
Committee: Donald Nichols (chair), Sebastian Galiani, Charles Moul

PUBLICATIONS/ACCEPTED PAPERS

“Tax Incentives and the Decision to Purchase Long-Term Care Insurance” (with Daifeng He).
Journal of Public Economics, 2009, 93(2): 296-310.
“Does Wal-Mart Reduce Social Capital?” (with Art Carden and Jeremy Meiners). *Public Choice*,
2009, 138(1): 109-136.
“Rising Cigarette Prices and Rising Obesity: Coincidence or Unintended Consequence?”
Forthcoming, *Journal of Health Economics*.
“Wal-Mart, Leisure, and Culture” (with Art Carden). Forthcoming, *Contemporary Economic Policy*.
“Working Yourself to Death: The Relationship Between Work Hours and Obesity.” Forthcoming,
Forum for Health Economics and Policy.
“A Silver Lining? The Connection Between Gasoline Prices and Obesity.” Forthcoming, *Economic Inquiry*.

WORKING PAPERS/PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

“Does the Profitability of an Outpatient Surgery Influence where it is Performed? A Look at
Ambulatory Surgery Centers and Hospitals” (with Michael Plotzke). Revise and resubmit,
Health Economics.
“Painting the Town Red? Wal-Mart and Values” (with Art Carden and Jeremy Meiners). Submitted.
“The Skinny on Big Box Retailing: Wal-Mart, Warehouse Clubs, and Obesity” (with Art Carden).
“Does Competition from Ambulatory Surgical Centers Affect Hospital Surgical Output and Hospital
Profit?” (with Michael Plotzke)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina at Greensboro
MA/PhD Econometric Methods Fall 2008
Health Economics Spring 2009

Washington University	
Economic Statistics (University College)	Fall 2006
Health Economics	Summer 2006 and Summer 2007
Principles of Microeconomics	Summer 2005
Money and Banking	Summer 2004

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	
Principles of Macroeconomics	Fall 2004, Summer 2005, and Fall 2005
Intermediate Macroeconomics	Spring 2004

CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“The Skinny on Big Box Retailing: Wal-Mart, Warehouse Clubs, and Obesity”	
Triangle Health Economics Workshop (Presented at RTI International)	November 2008
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	September 2008
“Rising Cigarette Prices and Rising Obesity: Coincidence or Unintended Consequence?”	
Montana State University	February 2008
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville	February 2008
Louisiana State University	February 2008
Impaq International	January 2008
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	January 2008
Southern Economics Association Conference	November 2007
Washington University Graduate Student Seminar Series	November 2007
Midwest Economics Association Annual Conference	March 2007
Washington University Graduate Student Conference	November 2006
Washington University Graduate Student Seminar Series	October 2006
“A Silver Lining? The Connection Between Gasoline Prices and Obesity.”	
University of Rochester	December 2007
Missouri Valley Economics Conference	October 2007
Missouri Economics Conference	April 2007

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE

Referee for <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics, Economic Inquiry, Forum for Health Economics and Policy, Economics and Human Biology (4), Obesity.</i>	
Chairman, Washington University Graduate Student Seminar Series	2006-07
Graduate Student Association Representative	2006-07
Peer Mentor (for two first-year Ph.D. students)	2004-05

GRANTS/AWARDS

UNC-Greensboro Summer Excellence Research Grant (\$5,000)	2009
UNC-Greensboro Bryan School of Business Dean’s Research Scholars Grant (\$3,000)	2008-09
Dissertation Fellowship, Washington University	2007-08
Wicksell Prize Honorable Mention, World Meeting of the Public Choice Society	March 2007
Competitive Summer Research Grant, Washington University	2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007
University Fellowship, Washington University	2002-03

ASSOCIATION AND HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Phi Beta Kappa
Omicron Delta Epsilon
American Economic Association
Western Economics Association

RESEARCH DISCUSSED IN THE MEDIA (Partial Listing)

“A Silver Lining? The Connection Between Gasoline Prices and Obesity” (2007-2008)

- “Dollars and Pounds.” *New York Times*.
Appeared on CNBC’s “Street Signs.”
“Higher gasoline price seen slimming down Americans.” Reuters.
Printed by over 100 news outlets, including the *USA Today*, *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Calgary Herald*, AOL.com, MSNBC.com, Canada.com, *Central Penn Business Journal*, and various other newspapers, web sites, and television stations.
Ripley, Amanda. “10 Things You Can Like About \$4 Gas” *Time Magazine*.
Stein, Joel. “The Joy of \$8 Gas” *Los Angeles Times*.
Carey, John. “The Real Question: Should Oil Be Cheap?” *Business Week*.
Everding, Gerry. “Rising gas prices could take a bite out of obesity epidemic, graduate student says.” *Washington University in St. Louis Record*. Also printed by DentalPlans.com, CSP Daily News, Science Daily, and various other media outlets.
Fitsugar.com. “Silver lining of high gas prices: smaller waist lines.”
Interviewed on “Day to Day,” National Public Radio Marketplace.
The Consumerist.com. “Great news! Higher gas prices good for you.”
Doyle, Leonard. “Rising petrol prices could force obese Americans to hit the street.” *The Independent*.
VOA, “Oil prices retreat after reaching new highs.”
Fox News.com. “High gas price silver lining: slimmer Americans?”
Interviewed on KMOX, St. Louis, MO.
Nicklaus, David. “Belly up to gas pump, or don’t, to cut obesity.” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.
Babad, Michael. “Researcher links gas price, obesity.” *Toronto Star*.
Interviewed on CHML, AM900, Hamilton, Canada.
Interviewed on “The Roy Green Show,” CHML, AM900, Hamilton, Canada.
Mulshine, Paul. “Is cheap gas making us fat?” *The Star-Ledger*, Newark, NJ.
“One Reason We Don’t Mind High Gas Prices.” *Shape*.
Ozari, Galia. “Q&A: South Beach, Atkins ... Now, the Out-of-Gas Diet.” DemoDirt.com.
White, Sarah. “Researcher says rising gas prices may limit obesity.” Calorie Lab Calorie Counter News.
Featured on Greg Mankiw’s Blog, the Freakanomics Blog, and Matthew Kahn’s blog “Environmental and Urban Economics.”
“Health Highlights: Sept. 14, 2007.” Business Week.com.
Scannell, Ed. “Professor: Gas Prices to Drop Obesity.” News 14 Carolina.com. Also appeared on News 14 Carolina.
Squatriglia, Chuck. “Rising Gas Prices Could Cure Obesity.” Wired.com.
“The Skinny on Big Box Retailing: Wal-Mart, Warehouse Clubs, and Obesity” (2008)
Mirhaydari, Anthony. “Wal-Mart Causing Weight Loss” MSN.com.
Jelveh, Zubin. “The Wal-Mart Diet.” Yahoo.com, *Wal-Mart Daily News*, Portfolio.com, Diets in Review.com, Seeking Alpha.com, The Chamber Post.com, Digg.com, and various other blogs.
Mentioned on National Public Radio and National Public Radio.com.
“Does Wal-Mart Reduce Social Capital?” (2008-2009)
Carden, Art. “Does Wal-Mart Reduce Social Capital? The Independent Institute.
Horowitz, Steve. “Wal-Mart and Social Capital.” The Austrian Economists.
Discussed on “The BOX Program with Matt Brouillette.”
“Study Shows Wal-Mart does not Affect Quality of Life.” Urban Revival.
All Wal-Mart Research (2009)
Drutman, Lee. “Researchers not Buying the Wal-Mart Effect.” *Miller-McCune*.