



NDSU PUBLIC CHOICE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Annual Report

2018-2019

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BRIGHTENING THE FUTURE

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We experienced much growth and change over the past year. As we enter our fourth year of operation, we believe it will be our most impactful year yet!

We have grown to four faculty members, adding one for each year of operation. We also have two staff members and four faculty affiliates.

Beyond growth in hiring, we also set records for engagement. We hosted our most highly-attended event when Jayson Lusk visited NDSU in April; and, in fact, attendance at all Capitalism and Society lectures increased over the past year.

We received a record number of applications for our student programs, awarding 31 scholarships in 2018-2019. Perhaps most exciting, demand for our Mancur Olson Scholars reading groups continues to grow. Reading groups are an essential part of the PCPE experience as students encounter the richness of civil discourse firsthand.

Spurred by the success of these programs, we reoriented our research staff position to focus on developing student talent in the areas of research, communications and center operations. We hired an Undergraduate Program Director to oversee these initiatives and will launch the Mancur Olson Fellows program this fall. Students going through our program will be well-equipped to incorporate the ideas of a free and prosperous society into their education, careers and any future endeavors.

As we launch new initiatives and continue to grow our existing programs, we will remain responsive to opportunities that help us accomplish our mission: *to uncover the institutions and policies that lead to human flourishing in a free and prosperous society.*

We are able to do all that we do because of the generosity of our donors. Thank you for your continued support.

Jeremy Jackson, Director

About Us

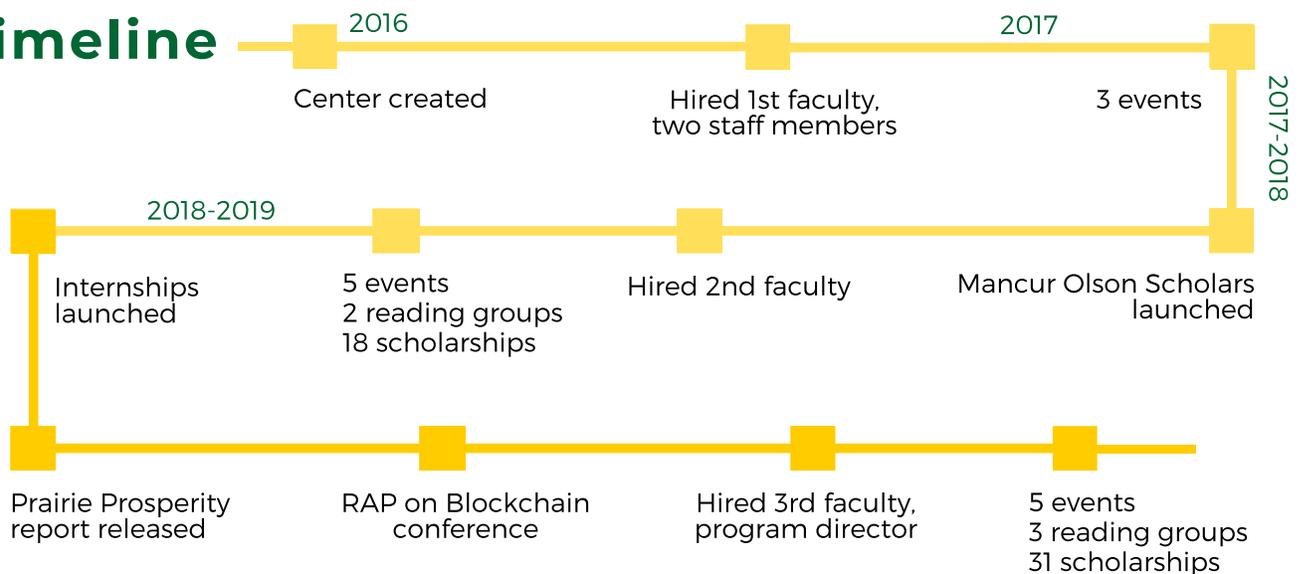
Mission

The Center for the Study of Public Choice and Private Enterprise engages in research and educational programs to uncover the institutions and policies that encourage and enhance human well-being. While we are grounded in economics, the Center supports and actively encourages efforts that cross traditional boundaries set by departmental and college delineations.

The Center achieves its mission by:

- Producing research and programming on issues relevant to North Dakota and the Upper Great Plains region.
- Advancing knowledge of the sources and causes of human well-being and the distinctive roles of entrepreneurship, free markets, philanthropy, private enterprise and public policy in achieving it.

Timeline



Meet Our Team

Faculty and Staff



Jeremy Jackson
Director



Kali Christianson
Outreach Specialist



Ryan Yonk
*Undergraduate
Program Director**



James Caton
Assistant Professor



Raymond March
Assistant Professor



Veeshan Rayamajhee
*Assistant Professor**

**new hire*

Advisory Board

Ron Bergan
Steve D. Scheel

Connie Nicholas
Steve Stenehjem

Ronald D. Offutt
Thomas C. Wold

Measuring Success



The Center is experiencing growth in hires, students and activity. We increased outputs in all three of our core areas: research, student programs and outreach.

OUTPUTS



519

students taught



25

Mancur Olson Scholars



31

scholarships awarded



22

research publications

in 2018-2019

We continue to pursue a mission that is both local and global by connecting with the people in our community and online.



Connect with us
@NDSUpcpe

OUTREACH



770
event attendees



58
original blogs



22,955
website visits



621
social media followers

Programs

Mancur Olson Scholars

The Mancur Olson Scholars program, named after North Dakota native and NDSU alumnus Mancur Olson, is an interdisciplinary learning and scholarship program.

Using a reading group format, students are invited to think critically and engage in robust discussion of ideas. Each group brings together diverse students to study and discuss readings while exploring a dynamic topic. Scholars gain experience in critical thinking and civil discourse; each student receives a scholarship upon completing the program.

We increased the **total number** of applications, as well as the diversity of **majors**, number of **female applicants** and the **overall quality** of applications.

Total applications:
2017-2018 --> 68
2018-2019 --> 90 + **32%**

Since the program launched in 2017, scholars have been selected from more than **30 majors and minors**.

In 2018-2019, we awarded **25 scholarships** to Mancur Olson Scholars. At the end of the program, **100 percent** of the scholars agreed:

The reading group helped me develop valuable skills for my future.

The reading group transformed my understanding and ideas about the topic.

*Based on anonymous survey results

BRIGHTENING CAMPUS DISCOURSE

Evolution in Entrepreneurship -- Fall 2018

>> Students explored a new way to think about entrepreneurship and how to learn from failure to solve our most pressing problems.

BRIGHT SPOT

"I think it may have scored me a job. Past reading groups have worked a lot on developmental economics and entrepreneurial economics, and I basically applied and had a few interviews for a job as a city manager... It certainly set me apart from every other candidate that they had."

Future plans: City Manager, Starbuck, MN

Calvin Benson
Business Management
Ham Lake, MN



James Caton leads an entrepreneurship-focused reading group every fall. Students study both the theory and practical aspects of entrepreneurship by discussing the latest research and reading insightful stories of innovation.

BRIGHTENING THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Humanomics -- Spring 2019

>> Students explored how to put the humanity back into twenty-first century economics.

BRIGHT SPOT

Kole Nichols

Economics & Political
Science

Moorhead, MN



"The Center helped me grow interpersonal skills in terms of working through problems and having a discussion about ideas."

Future plans: Kole received a summer internship at the U.S. Department of Labor and a fall internship with the executive branch. He plans to return to NDSU in the spring and apply to the Mancur Olson Scholars program.

In this upper division reading group, students met with our director to discuss how economics can be used to understand human feeling, thinking and knowing in everyday life.



We launched our first upper division reading group in spring 2019. Upper division reading groups are open to students with previous experience in the Mancur Olson Scholars program or who have completed significant economics coursework. Students are able to dive deeper into an advanced economics topic.

BRIGHTENING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

Regulating Food and Vice -- Spring 2019

>> Students explored how food and vices are regulated and examined the effectiveness of regulations at achieving their goals.

..... **Looking Ahead**

Reading groups in 2019-2020:

- Driving and Sustaining Change
- Entrepreneurship and Human Action
- Freedom and Foreign Policy
- How Literature Reflects and Affects Society



BRIGHT SPOT

Reed Petersen
Physics
Rochester, MN



"I've thought about these topics a lot in my personal life, but I'd never thought in an economy-wide scale, which is cool; I think one thing that I've been developing throughout the semester is thinking of more concepts through an economic lens."

Future plans: Reed received a prestigious Fulbright-Nehru grant for 2019-2020 to conduct research in Kolkata, India.

Speaker Luncheons

Speakers are invited to share a special luncheon with students in the Mancur Olson Scholars program. These luncheons facilitate conversation between NDSU's top students and visiting scholars.

BRIGHT SPOT

"It really demonstrated how meaningful our conversations can be on campus...It's not just the reading group--it's meeting the author, going to the lectures. I like that."

Future plans: Jasmin is studying abroad in fall 2019. She plans to apply for the spring reading group when she returns to NDSU.



Students in the Regulating Food and Vice reading group met with Jayson Lusk, the author of one of their books.

Jasmin Kaempfer
Marketing & Global Business
Gettorf, Germany



Game Nights

We hosted two Game Nights for students and faculty. These events were well-attended and provided an opportunity for faculty to mingle with students and share about our programs.

BRIGHTENING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Travel Scholarships

We awarded six travel scholarships for students to attend conferences, workshops and seminars across the country. These scholarships paid for students' travel to present research, learn about new ideas and participate in programs that support our mission.

Programs

Casondra Rutschke, FBLA-PBL
National Leadership Conference

Michael Straus, Foundations of
Liberty Summer Seminar

Mark Simonson, IHS workshop
on social science research

Research Conferences

Bailey Gillis,
biological sciences

Edmund Baffoe-Twum,
engineering

Raquib Hasan,
pharmaceutical sciences

BRIGHT SPOTS



Michael Straus

Engineering

West Fargo, ND

"I really enjoyed that the Center made me aware of opportunities through IHS and the travel scholarship. It was great! If there's more out there, I'd be interested to know about it."

Future plans: Michael will return as a Mancur Olson Scholar and participate in the fall reading group.

"The travel scholarship allowed me to find real-world learning opportunities to supplement my classroom knowledge."

Casondra Rutschke

Business Administration

Zap, ND



Internships

We hired a communications and marketing intern for the 2018-2019 academic year. The intern worked with our outreach specialist on blog writing, website and social media content, video production, graphic design, event promotion and other special projects. Beginning in 2019-2020, internships will be replaced by the new Mancur Olson Fellows program.

Nathaniel Thoreson

Marketing & Political Science

2018-2019 intern

Top Blogs

The Gig Economy, Millennials and Capitalism
The Future of Work: Bright or Bleak?



Kate Best

Economics

Summer 2019 intern, 2019-2020 Fellow

..... Looking Ahead

Kate entered NDSU as a pre-pharmacy major but discovered a passion for economics in one of her introductory classes freshman year. She is looking forward to joining the Mancur Olson Fellows program in 2019-2020. She is especially interested in working on policy research as she considers pursuing graduate school.

Graduate Students

The Center provides funding for three graduate students in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. These students receive mentoring from our faculty and faculty affiliates as they complete a master's thesis project.

Curriculum

Teaching is an essential part of our mission. We are continually working to improve the student experience and economics curriculum.

History of Economic Thought

- > Transformed the existing course (ECON 356) to focus on the development of economic thought from Adam Smith to the Neoclassical School
- > Satisfies requirement for writing-intensive, 300-level course
- > Taught by Dr. Raymond March in spring 2019, scheduled for spring 2021

Computational Economics

- > Created new undergraduate/graduate course (ECON 411/611) to equip students with basic programming skills and teach them how to use economic computation for modeling, analysis and data management in the 21st century
- > Taught by Dr. James Caton in spring 2019, scheduled for fall 2019

..... **Looking Ahead**

Market Values

- > New Market Values course (ECON 205) will be co-taught by Dr. Jeremy Jackson and Dr. Ryan Yonk in fall 2019
- > Students will learn about economic systems (capitalism vs. socialism) and their ability to create value. This course emphasizes the role of entrepreneurs in contributing to a flourishing society.
- > Satisfies general education requirements for Global Perspectives, Wellness

Economics of Entrepreneurship

- > New undergraduate/graduate course for the Entrepreneurship program
- > Explores how entrepreneurs increase market efficiency and the role of incentives in private enterprise

BRIGHTENING THE CLASSROOM

Events

Capitalism and Society lecture series

The Capitalism and Society lecture series invites dialogue between researchers, students and the community to engage with emerging ideas. These events are open to the public and free to attend.

Speakers from around the nation come to NDSU to present their research and participate in Q&A on topics relevant to the region. We encourage the audience to continue the conversation as pizza and refreshments are served afterward. In 2018-2019, we hosted four Capitalism and Society lectures.

Economic Freedom and the Wealth and Health of Nations

>> Robert Lawson, Southern Methodist University

Private Enforcement of Contracts: from eBay to Blockchain

>> Edward Stringham, American Institute for Economic Research

Money and the Rule of Law

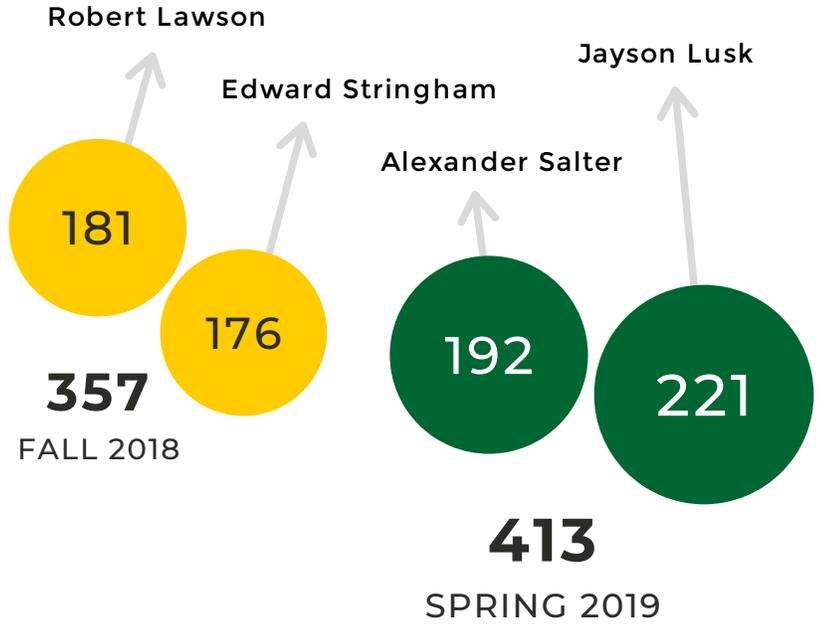
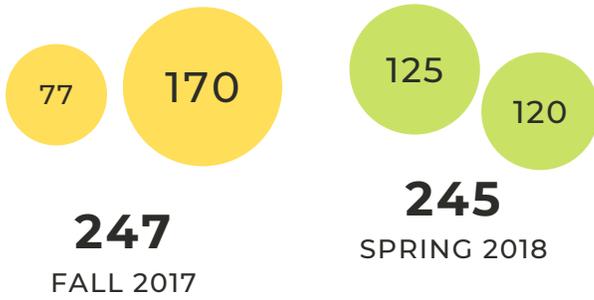
>> Alexander Salter, Texas Tech University

The Future of Food

>> Jayson Lusk, Purdue University



ATTENDANCE GROWTH



This exceeded my expectations -- very well done!

on Alexander Salter

I always appreciate this series.

He did a good job convincing me how capitalism works better economically and for the health and wellness of people.

on Robert Lawson

Very interesting look at the invisible hand and how it affects decisions in everyone, no matter the decade or country in the world.

on Edward Stringham

Super cool stuff! I'd like to hear more...

on Jayson Lusk

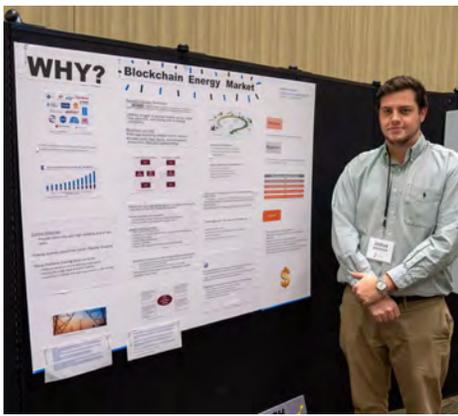
Research and Practice on Blockchain

The Center organized and hosted the Research and Practice (RAP) on Blockchain conference at North Dakota State University on October 27, 2018. This conference provided a forum for researchers and academics to interact with practitioners, policymakers and entrepreneurs to unlock the potential of blockchain technology; we especially sought to enhance the vitality of the North Dakota economy by spurring innovation and economic diversification.

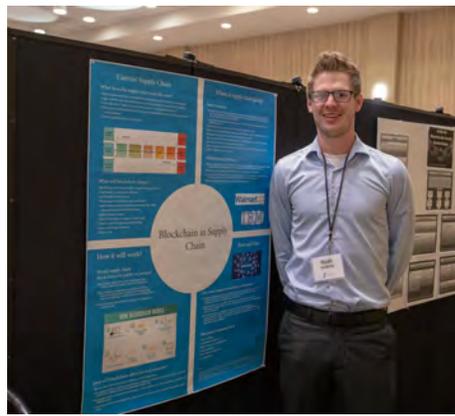
The conference was a success with 19 speakers and over 80 attendees. Presentations covered diverse blockchain applications, including agricultural supply chains, economic organization, governance, the money market, law and privacy. Jason Potts presented the keynote address on how blockchain technology can disrupt current industries and institutions. A closing panel featured national researchers and the head of innovation at Myriad Mobile, a North Dakota-based technology company.



Rap on Blockchain 2018 panel, listed from left-to-right: Moderator: James Caton, PCPE; Panelists: Cameron Harwick, The College at Brockport; Jed Bontjes, Myriad Mobile; Edward Stringham, AIER



Joshua Amundson
(tied-first place)



Noah Moberg
(tied-first place)



Grayson Ferencik
(third place)

..... **Looking Ahead**

The 2nd annual RAP on Blockchain conference will be hosted by the NDSU Center for Enterprise Business Analytics on October 5, 2019.

Student Research Poster Contest

Seven students presented research posters in a competition co-sponsored by the NDSU Center for Enterprise Business Analytics. A panel of judges evaluated the posters and awarded prizes to the top three winners. Winning posters analyzed blockchain applications in the supply chain, energy markets and pharmaceutical drug tracking.

96%
agree it was
'highly informative'

92%
rated conference
'excellent' or 'good'

89
attendees

91%
say their view or
understanding changed

7
student
posters

19
speakers

Research

Our research focuses on uncovering the institutions and policies that encourage and enhance human well-being. We produce both academic and public policy research on a wide array of topics; and we write blogs and op-eds to share our ideas with a broad audience.

Jeremy Jackson

Studies: fiscal policy, political economics, economic freedom, happiness, philanthropy

Op-Ed >> A solution to North Dakota's budget woes, *InForum*

Top Blog >> Do free markets destroy civil society?

James Caton

Studies: macroeconomics, entrepreneurship, blockchain, cryptocurrencies, monetary policy

Op-Ed >> What is blockchain?, *InForum*

Top Blog >> Powell's New Monetary Regime

Raymond March

Studies: healthcare economics, regulations, drug pricing, rural health and telemedicine

Op-Ed >> Healthcare needs price competition, not just transparency, *The Hill*

Top Blog >> Regulating the Risky and Risque

BRIGHTENING THE ACADEMY

RESEARCH IMPACT

14

PEER-REVIEWED
ARTICLES

25

ACADEMIC
PRESENTATIONS

1,540

ARTICLE
DOWNLOADS

17

MEDIA
MENTIONS

8

OP-EDS
PUBLISHED

4,140

BLOG
VIEWS

Dr. Jeremy Jackson partnered with the Dakota Medical Foundation to study philanthropy in our region. Pat Traynor, Executive Director of the Dakota Medical Foundation, invited Dr. Jackson to present his findings to a group of community stakeholders. This was one of many presentations our researchers gave to share their work.



BRIGHTENING OUR COMMUNITY

Research on North Dakota

- **Prairie Prosperity: An Economic Guide for the State of North Dakota**

In this report, we examine the history of North Dakota's state finances and explore the policies that led to the current environment. We identify policy reforms to address state fiscal challenges and put North Dakota on a pathway to prosperity.

- **North Dakota Workforce Survey**

Workforce development and relevant education present some of the greatest challenges, as well as opportunities, for North Dakota. In June 2018, the Workforce Development Council, in partnership with the Greater North Dakota Chamber and our research staff, launched a workforce survey to deeply understand the workforce challenges of North Dakota employers. The survey results were analyzed and compiled in this report, which was completed in August 2018.

BRIGHTENING THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR NORTH DAKOTA

..... **Looking Ahead**

Veeshan Rayamajhee

Studies: natural disasters, climate change, food security, natural resources, social capital, social entrepreneurship

Ryan Yonk

Studies: environmental policy, energy policy, rural policy, public lands policy, well-being

Mancur Olson Fellows

Students conducting policy relevant research

Faculty Affiliates

We collaborate with faculty across the University to pursue our interdisciplinary mission and increase our impact.

2018-2019 Faculty Affiliates

- **John Bitzan** >> Associate Dean, College of Business; Professor of Management
- **Jay Leitch** >> Emeritus Dean, College of Business; Emeritus Professor, Agricultural Economics
- **David Ripplinger** >> Director, Bioenergy and Products Innovation Center; Assistant Professor of Agribusiness and Applied Economics
- **Clay Routledge** >> Professor of Psychology

Faculty Initiatives

The Faculty Initiatives program offers funding of up to \$5,000 for projects, programs and research across the University that contribute to our mission. In 2018-2019, we awarded two faculty initiative grants:

- We awarded \$3,000 to a team of researchers in the Department of Communication and the Management and Marketing Department to conduct market research for an NDSU Grant Challenges project.
- We awarded \$5,000 to a team of researchers in the Department of Psychology to conduct a survey to examine the relationship between meaning and indicators of community engagement, volunteering and charitable giving.

Looking Ahead



We are excited to launch new programs and opportunities while building on the success of our existing activities. In 2019-2020, we will extend our reach across campus by forming interdisciplinary partnerships and creating student programs for a variety of majors. Students will continue to be exposed to a wide range of ideas, practice civil discourse, gain a global perspective and receive the training and skills they need to transition to the workforce or further studies.

As we "look ahead," we want to thank our donors and supporters for your generosity. Our mission would not be possible without your support. Thank you for partnering with us as we look toward a bright future.



Mancur Olson Fellows

A Mancur Olson Fellowship is a full program of training and activities that immerses students in every aspect of a university-based research center. This program has multiple tracks for Fellows to pursue public policy research, communications, event planning and administration or other interests. Fellows will receive mentoring from faculty, affiliated scholars and external experts as they work directly on projects related to their career interests.

This program will expand our research capabilities while teaching students how to conduct public policy research. Fellows will seek to answer policy questions that improve the lives of individuals and make the world a better place. They will gain experience in the full research process--from idea generation to research design to publication and public influence.

Anticipated launch: Fall 2019



New Institutional Social Science Graduate Certificate 🕶️

We partnered with faculty from the departments of political science, psychology and sociology to create a graduate certificate in New Institutional Social Science. New Institutional Social Science explores how institutional structures, rules, norms and cultures impact society and the choices of individuals. The certificate will include new courses taught by faculty in each department. The Stage I proposal was approved by the State Board of Higher Education earlier this year, and we have successfully moved on to Stage II.

Anticipated launch: Fall 2020

Global Experience 🕶️

We want to help students understand how a global perspective is essential to both personal and societal success. A global perspective cannot be taught; it must be experienced--and thus the Global Experience program was created. Participants in this program will travel abroad to learn about the relationship between people, culture, history, business and the economy.

In spring 2020, the Global Experience will visit London, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland, to explore global business and classic economic theory in the birthplaces of famed scholars Adam Smith and David Hume.

Anticipated launch: Spring 2019

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Celebrating the Legacy of Mancur Olson

In addition to looking toward the future, we want to honor a legacy by celebrating one of NDSU's most noted alumni, Mancur Olson.

Who is Mancur Olson?

Mancur Olson grew up on a farm near Buxton, ND, and attended NDSU to study economics. He went on to study at Oxford and Harvard, earning a Ph.D. and becoming a professor at the University of Maryland. His work has been acclaimed by the academy, government officials and the private sector; many people believe he may have won a Nobel prize for the ideas in his first book, *The Logic of Collective Action*, if not for his unexpected passing.

Mancur Olson is remembered as a champion of rigorous debate, a voracious reader, a diligent researcher, a generous collaborator and a father of Public Choice and New Institutional Economics. It seems only fitting that we would honor his contributions not only by allowing his legacy to inspire our programs, the Mancur Olson Scholars and Mancur Olson Fellows, but also by bringing his ideas to our campus and community.

Mancur Olson: A Discussion of His Life and Legacy

We invited two of Mancur Olson's former students to participate in a panel discussion about his ideas. This event will be held in the AgCountry Auditorium at Barry Hall and is open to all.

Mancur Olson: Economic Ideas in Focus

We are thrilled to share a project that combines thoughtful scholarship with the beauty of the arts. Students from the art and communication departments will be designing creative pieces inspired by the life and ideas of Mancur Olson. These works will be displayed in the Flakoll Gallery at Renaissance Hall in downtown Fargo. This collaboration will expose a new cohort of students to Mancur Olson and celebrate him in our community.

EVENT DATES

2019-2020

October 4th

Mancur Olson: A Discussion of His Life and Legacy

A panel discussion featuring Jac Heckelman and Keith Dougherty, two students of Mancur Olson

October 17th

Capitalism and Society: Joshua Hall

Joshua Hall is a professor of economics and director of the Center for Free Enterprise at West Virginia University. He researches economic freedom, state and local public finance and entrepreneurship.

November 7th

Mancur Olson: Economic Ideas in Focus

This reception celebrates the opening of a four-week exhibit at the Flakoll Gallery showcasing student works inspired by the ideas of Mancur Olson.

Coming Spring 2020

Nobel laureate Vernon Smith

Vernon Smith was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2002 for his work in experimental economics.

Capitalism and Society: Christopher Coyne

Christopher Coyne is an associate professor of economics at George Mason University. He is the author of "Doing Bad By Doing Good" and "Tyranny Comes Home."

Free Speech: Thomas Cushman

Thomas Cushman is a professor of sociology at Wellesley College. He studies dissent and freedom of expression and the sociology of controversial ideas.



