Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking (SWEET)

Stewardship Report 2012-2013

A forum for students, staff, faculty, and community members to share their passion for economics, SWEET encompasses a discussion group, the scholarship program SWEET Scholars, and a lecture series. Sherri Wall, Economics, has been the faculty advisor since SWEET’s beginning in 2006.

“Rather than shying away from difficult or controversial subjects, SWEET encourages its members to form their own opinions and re-evaluate their old ones.”

–Daniel Leahy

“My involvement in SWEET has had a lasting impact on me professionally and intellectually and changed the way I view the world. As a partner in a small engineering firm, I have been able to apply the economic way of thinking to the real world through my career. My experience as the president of the club taught me organizational and diplomatic skills I will be applying for the rest of my life.”

–Samuel Vanderwaal
Class of 2010
Guest Speakers Series

For the last seven years, SWEET has hosted 37 speakers who have addressed economic issues facing Alaska and the nation.


Testimonials from guest speakers:

“Mom visit to the University of Alaska Fairbanks ranks among the very best of the campuses I have visited. In addition to giving two public lectures to audiences of well over 100 students, community members, and faculty, I was able to meet and interact with dozens of students over meals and through the SWEET group at one of their regular meetings.

After my visit, I was honored to participate in SWEET’s blog, and I plan to use this idea at Southern Methodist University. Kudos to all on a great program.”

**Dr. Robert Lawson**
Fullinwider Endowed Centennial Chair in Economic Freedom
Cox School of Business
Southern Methodist University
SWEET Guest Speaker, Fall 2012

“I was very impressed by the Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking. The students were very dynamic, passionate, and excited about ideas. Their questions reflected that they read the classics and were interested in answering difficult questions. Students who attended the lectures were actively participating and asking questions.

SWEET offers a unique opportunity for UAF students and the Fairbanks community to learn about relevant issues in a dynamic and exciting manner.”

**Dr. Alexandre Padilla**
Associate Professor of Economics
Director of the Exploring Economic Freedom Project
Metropolitan State College of Denver
SWEET Guest Speaker, Spring 2013

SWEET Scholars

SWEET Scholars is an academic scholarship program that provides students with a forum to investigate economic theories and concepts. SWEET Scholars maintain a blog and meet weekly to discuss and explore economic literature. This past year, SWEET scholars have written over 65,000 words discussing their readings.

See the SWEET Scholars in action, read their blog at uafsweet.blogspot.com. Over 245,000 words and counting!