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

“I have participated in SWEET for three years. I heard about it through Sherri Wall’s Econ 100 class and jumped at the opportunity to explore economic concepts in a less formal setting. Although I am a mechanical engineering major, I participated in SWEET because not only is it a fun experience that introduced me to other like minded people, it also gave me a different perspective on the world. During my second year with SWEET I became the President, which conferred some additional responsibilities. My favorite aspect of being President was looking for interesting articles for discussion and the responses from my fellow members. SWEET has been an awesome experience.”

–Steven Cassell
SWEET President
Mechanical Engineering

“SWEET has been one of the highlights of my graduate school experience. It is the rare activity that feels productive but is also enjoyable. Both my written and oral communication skills, as well as my teaching abilities, benefited immensely from my participation in SWEET. The SWEET format enabled me to practice applying my knowledge of economic theory to real life events outside of a classroom. The blog posts provided me with an avenue to test writing for a non-economist, non-academic audience and the debates offered a chance to practice discussing concepts on the fly. And the half hour during which we had dinner offered me an opportunity to gather up my energy for the debate while getting to know students I would not otherwise have a chance to meet. I always valued the social aspect as I felt it enabled me to leave the graduate school/economic bubble and expand my horizons. The SWEET scholarship also provides an added incentive to participate. In summary, I cannot wait for the SWEET season to start again!”

–Barbara Johnson
MS Resource and Applied Economics

“Deliberation is the key to learning. I find this to be the case because you never truly know any topic until you defend it. This opportunity for debate is what I valued most about SWEET. If you chose to attend a session you’ll be challenged, but simultaneously you’ll learn. Give SWEET a try and you won’t be disappointed.”

–Huckleberry Hopper
BBA Economics
Guest Speaker Series

Over the last eight years, SWEET has hosted 39 speakers who have addressed economic issues facing Alaska and the nation.

In the fall, SWEET hosted Dr. Karen Travis from Pacific Lutheran University, who presented a talk entitled “The Affordable Care Act: A Timeline & Economic Analysis.”

Dr. Karen Travis
Associate Professor of Economics
Pacific Lutheran University

SWEET Guest Speaker
Fall 2014

This spring featured Steve Gumaer, chief executive officer of Partners Relief & Development, who spoke about “Burma’s justice record: What economic development and political liberalization looks like in Burma-Myanmar today.”

Steve Gumaer
CEO
Partners Relief & Development

SWEET Guest Speaker
Spring 2015

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 25,000 words discussing their readings.

See the SWEET Scholars in action. Read their BLOG at uafsweet.blogspot.com
Over 295,000 words & counting!

Photos courtesy of SWEET