National Tax Association

For the second year in a row, the Office of Tax Policy Research (OTPR) sponsored a Short Session at the end of the National Tax Association Annual Meetings. This year’s speaker, Katherine Baicker, spoke on health care. The topic and speaker were extremely well received. Please see comments below from attendees:

“I really liked the afternoon session sponsored by OTPR. I felt the speaker did an amazing job at presenting the key issues regarding health policy. I also felt that there was a lot of value added in the session, as the speaker also shared her insights into the topic, which were fascinating for many of us who are not familiar with every detail of health policy.”

“The short course on healthcare (afternoon session) would be useful for PhD students of any year, and was one of the highlights of the conference. Katherine Baicker is a very engaging speaker, and her presentation was very informative. Hearing her present the Oregon Health Insurance Experiment and her perspective on how to interpret the findings was especially valuable since she was one of the primary co-authors.”

“I thought the health care session was very useful. Kate is a great speaker and I think she did a good job in laying out the health care landscape and helping people see what research opportunities that field has to offer.”

OTPR will once more be sponsoring a Short Session at the end of the National Tax Association’s Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Stay tuned for further information.

Alumni Dinner 2015

One of the highlights on the OTPR calendar is the Alumni Dinner held during the NTA Annual Conference each year and this past year in Boston was no exception. We enjoyed a delicious family-style dinner at Maggiano’s with great company and great conversation.

The photos below tell the story of a very fun night with the best group of people!
OTPR's alumni group continues to grow every year!
**Taxing Ourselves – 5Th Edition Off to the Presses**

Professor Joel Slemrod and Professor Jon Bakija have completed the 5th edition of their book titled *Taxing Ourselves* and it has been sent off to MIT Press. There are many new updates in this edition, which is expected to be available at the ASSA meetings in January 2017, and for Winter term 2017 adoption.

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**Why OTPR PhD Students Recommend NTA**

“After being present in the conference for the last two years, I can certainly say that the NTA has given me a broader perspective of public finance. In my first year there, I was able to get a sense of the topics discussed and the technical level of the participants and papers presented. This year I was able to enjoy the presentations even more. Additionally, I was also able to meet other participants who are doing research in the areas I am interested in, which I hope will be a valuable asset for the future.”

“I would strongly recommend NTA to a fellow student because it provides ideas about what people are researching and what types of research questions people are investigating. Students without any papers might get inspired to look further into a topic or a specific research idea. Students with a research topic get the chance to talk with experts in the field and network. Public economics is a small world and meeting people is important.”

“The NTA (like other conferences) is first and foremost a place where you can get in quick succession many of the advances and ideas in the field of public economics. As such, it is particularly exciting for a young PhD student. More than that, it is an important place to find out how the academic world works and observe our peers on the job market. Having the opportunity to do this with OTPR, adds on top of all that the unique experience of meeting alumni of the program who have gone on to greater things, putting it all in perspective.”

“Attending the NTAs is an incredibly valuable experience for a graduate student. To be immersed in presentations by and interactions with the leading minds in the field is a unique experience. This can prove enormously stimulating both in generating new research ideas and in developing old ones. Everybody walks away from the NTAs feeling reinvigorated, motivated to dive back into their research. You get exposure to papers you didn’t even know existed, which can be valuable if they are closely related to your work. I walked away from the NTAs this year with 5 papers that I needed to quickly read and cite in my Job Market Paper.”

“Students interested in public finance should attend the NTAs for the opportunity to gain exposure to new research, and to meet active researchers in the field. My job market paper is coauthored with someone I met at my first NTA meeting, and was largely inspired by a speech I heard during my second NTA meeting. Attending consistently over a few years has helped me feel that I am part of a network of many young, enthusiastic researchers with common interests. Very probably at least one research idea I discussed with people at this year’s NTAs will evolve into a research collaboration.”

“Attending the NTA meeting is an unbelievable opportunity for graduate students interested in Public Finance...The NTA meeting showcases fantastic research and affords graduate students an excellent opportunity to network. In addition, because conferences are likely to become recurring and important events in many graduate students post-graduation lives, it’s important to learn how to handle them...[i]n particular, how to present, network, talk to other researchers, etc. The NTA meeting is a low pressure situation to practice and hone these skills.”
Starring: OTPR Alumni (and Director)

OTPR is proud to announce that the winners of the Atkinson Award for the best paper published in the *Journal of Public Economics* in the past 3 years was given to Joel Slemrod and Jim Sallee for their paper titled “Car Notches: Strategic Automaker Responses to Fuel Economy Policy.”

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Save the Date:** M-TAXI will be held on June 10 -11, 2016. The Call for Papers will be sent out shortly so be sure to watch for it.

**OTPR’s 30th Anniversary:** OTPR’s 30th anniversary year begins in July, 2017. We will be hosting several events during the year to celebrate this milestone.

As we have mentioned before, we are always open to hearing about any collaboration ideas you may have regarding projects and/or conferences and to hear of your accomplishments so we can proudly mention them in our next newsletter.

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**List of Regents for University Publications**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Michael J. Behm</th>
<th>Laurence B. Deitch</th>
<th>Denise Ilitch</th>
<th>Andrew C. Richner</th>
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<td>Grand Blanc</td>
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<td>Bingham Farms</td>
<td>Grosse Pointe Park</td>
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<td>Mark J. Bernstein</td>
<td>Shauna Ryder Diggs</td>
<td>Andrea Fischer Newman</td>
<td>Katherine E. White</td>
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<td>Farmington Hills</td>
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Mark S. Schlissel (ex officio)