

## **First Annual Dr. John Van Huyck Memorial Fellows Awarded**

To honor the memory and legacy of Dr. John Van Huyck, the Dr. John Van Huyck Fellows Program provides support for one or two graduate students in the TAMU Department of Economics to carry out experimental research. The Dr. John Van Huyck Fellows Endowed Program was established through the generous philanthropy of Mr. Alfred P. Van Huyck and Mrs. Nancy Van Huyck Chockley. The Program provides up to \$5,000 of funding for laboratory experiments conducted in the Economic Research Laboratory or for field experiments. This year, Daniel Stephenson and Wei Zhan will be the first recipients of the award.

Daniel Stephenson is a fifth year PhD student, and his research investigates game theoretic models of strategic interaction in continuous time experiments. This continuous-time approach allows him to compare the predictive power of static and dynamic behavioral models in ways not possible with discrete time experiments. Stephenson's research builds off Dr. Van Huyck's work, which previously examined dynamic models of convergence to equilibrium in discrete time Stag Hunt Games. There are important applications for Stephenson's research; he hypothesizes that the provision of continuous feedback in mechanisms used to assign students to public schools may lead to more efficient outcomes and he has already received a grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate this application.

Wei Zhan is a third year PhD student, and her work focuses on charitable giving and altruism. She uses "real donation" decisions, where a subject earns or is given an endowment, and then has an opportunity to make a real donation to a charitable organization. This environment provides a kind of test bed to explore factors that improve fundraising efficiency. Wei is interested in leadership in fundraising, particularly in settings where a leader volunteers to collect funds from a friendship network. She also is pursuing several related projects, including a methodological piece on the way in which altruistic preferences are elicited in the lab, and one on social norms in trust behavior.

If you would like to contribute to the The Dr. John Van Huyck Fellows Endowed Program, please make your gift payable to the Texas A&M Foundation.