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Reflecting on the Year Past with Dr Nguyen

Rayaan Kapoor
rkapoor@iwu.edu

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Reflecting on the Year Past with Dr Nguyen

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Dr. Nguyen joined the IWU faculty after obtaining his Ph.D. degree in Economics from the University of Tennessee in summer 2021. He chose IWU for its exceptional prestige in undergraduate education. The institution's emphasis on experiential learning also very much resonated with his teaching philosophy. On his hiring committee were Professors David Marvin, Robert Irons, Adriana Ponce, William Munro, and Bill Walsh. In his recollection, his first-round interview with these professors was the least stressful, and most enjoyable job interview ever, one during which he was comfortable being himself for the first time.

After being offered a tenure-track position at IWU, he drove 8 hours from Knoxville, TN, to see the campus with his own eyes. The beautiful green scenery on a sunny summer day was definitely "love at first sight," but it was Professor David Marvin and Ms. Kara Miller, whom he met during that short and impetuous visit, that gave him the final boost of confidence in his final decision.

Ever since he moved to Bloomington, he has been impressed with the love and support from his new students and colleagues while trying to establish his identity as a teacher. Students who have taken, or are taking, ECON 227 (Stats for Business and Economics), ECON 100 (Intro Economics), and ECON 311 (Money and Banking) often comment that while his classes are challenging, they are also interesting. He has high expectations for his students, but above all else, he hopes the academic rigor and relevance that he embeds into his teaching will prepare students for the real world.

Apart from teaching, Dr. Nguyen is also passionate about research. He has several research studies going on, including both solo-authored works and collaborative papers. Recently, most of his attention has focused on an economic experiment on income and wealth inequality in the United States. The study is funded through an external organization, and currently awaiting final approval from IWU Institutional Review Board prior to a nationwide launch.

At IWU, Dr. Nguyen works hard to "transmit" his own intellectual curiosity and love of learning to students. From class exercises and fun "side projects" to independent studies, he has been gently introducing students to the exciting world of research, hoping to bring them one step closer to the frontiers of economics as a field. While doing so, he has also collaborated with colleagues from other liberal arts and research universities across the nation to create even more learning and networking opportunities for IWU students in the future.

