Dear Professors Handel, Ho, and Kolstad,

My name is Anne Burton, I am a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate at Cornell University, and I am applying for the 2019 NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp for Graduate Students.

Here is my full contact information:

Name: Anne Burton

Email: amb622@cornell.edu

Cell Phone: 206-818-1679

Mailing Address:
Anne Burton
302 S Plain St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

My committee chair, John Cawley, will be submitting a letter of recommendation for me.

I have attached a copy of my CV as well as an essay outlining my rationale for attending this boot camp, complete with a brief description of my current and future research interests.

Thank you for considering my application!

Best regards,
Anne Burton

Anne M. Burton

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Updated October 6, 2019

Education

Cornell University, Ph.D. Candidate in Economics (expected) 2021
Committee: John Cawley, Stephen Coate, Donald Kenkel

Cornell University, M.A. in Economics 2018

Colby College, B.A. (summa cum laude) in Economics and Government 2012
Honors in Economics, Distinction in Economics and Government

Research Interests

Health Economics, Public Economics, Economics of Crime

Works in Progress

"The Heterogeneous Responses to and Social Welfare Effects of Smoking Bans in Bars and Restaurants"

"Ban-the-Box and Monopsony Spillovers: Cross-Border Evidence" (with David Wasser)

"Measurement Error in Reported Smoking" (with Michael Lovenheim and Donald Kenkel)

"Exporting Externalities: The Effects of New Hampshire's Alcohol Price Setting on In-State and Out-of-State Alcohol Demand and Alcohol-Related Externalities"
(with Aviv Caspi and Julien Neves)

"Do Uber and Lyft Reduce Drunk Driving Fatalities?"

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Don Kenkel and Mike Lovenheim, Cornell University Spring 2018 -
"Econometric Analysis of Cigarette Purchases on Native American Reservations"
National Institutes of Health Project Number 1R01DA042064-01A1

Research Assistant, Don Kenkel, Cornell University Summer 2017 - Fall 2017

Research Assistant, John Cawley, Cornell University Summer 2016

Senior Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors June 2013 - June 2015
Fiscal Analysis Section, Division of Research and Statistics

Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors June 2012 - June 2013
Fiscal Analysis Section, Division of Research and Statistics

Research Assistant, Simge Tarhan, Colby College Spring 2010

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Colby College — January 2019
EC256, Economics of Crime

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University — Spring 2017
ECON 3710, The Economics of Risky Health Behaviors, Professor John Cawley

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University — Fall 2016
CRP 5122, Intermediate Microeconomics for Public Affairs, Professor Nancy Brooks

Teaching Assistant, Colby College
EC223, Microeconomic Theory, Professor Samara Gunter — Spring 2011 - Spring 2012

Teaching Assistant, Colby College
EC133, Principles of Microeconomics, Professor Laura Malaguzzi Valeri — Fall 2010

Fellowships, Grants, Honors, and Awards

Annual Health Econometrics Workshop student scholarship — 2019

NBER Summer Institute, Invited Attendee — 2018, 2019

Graduate School Conference Grant, Cornell University — 2019

President's Council of Cornell Women microgrant for — 2018
"A discussion on women in economics"

Sage Fellowship, Cornell University — 2015 - 2016

Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship — 2015

Phi Beta Kappa, Colby College — 2012

Bixler Scholar, Colby College — 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
Awarded to top 7 students in each class each year

Breckinridge Prize, Colby College — 2012
Awarded to senior economics major(s) with the highest GPA

Charles A. Johnson Award, Colby College — 2012
Awarded to teaching assistant(s) who made a significant contribution to student coursework

James J. Harris Business Administration Award, Colby College — 2012
Awarded to top Administrative Science minor

Faculty Prize, Colby College — 2011
Awarded to junior exhibiting outstanding performance in Micro and Macro Theory

Pi Sigma Alpha, Colby College — 2011
National Political Science honor society

Presentations and Seminars (includes scheduled)

2019:

Cornell Health Economics Seminar

Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis Annual Conference

American Society for Health Economists Annual Conference (poster)

Western Economic Association International Annual Conference

Department Service (Cornell University)

Co-Founder, Diversity in Cornell Economics	2019 -
Co-Organizer, Speaking Economics Symposium	2019
Graduate Student Coordinator, Institute on Health Economics, Health Behaviors, and Disparities	2017 -
Mentor, Field of Economics Mentorship Program	2017 -
Mentor, Field of PAM Mentorship Program	2017 -
President, Graduate Student Association For Economics	2017 - 2018
Graduate Student Co-Organizer, Labor Works In Progress Seminar	2017 - 2018
PAM Field Rep., Graduate and Professional Student Assembly	2016 - 2017

Affiliations

American Economic Association

American Society of Health Economists

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Institute on Health Economics, Health Behaviors, and Disparities

Other Educational Activities

University of Chicago Price Theory Summer Camp	July 2019
Queen's University Belfast, 2nd Ireland Masterclass in Health Economics	April 2018
The George Washington University, Non-Degree Coursework in Mathematics	2013 - 2014

Ph.D. Coursework Completed

First-Year Core Courses:

Microeconomic Theory I and II
Macroeconomics I and II
Econometrics I and II
Intermediate Mathematical Economics I

Field Courses:

Health Economics I and II
Public Finance (audited), Empirical Public Finance and Taxation
Empirical Strategies for Policy Analysis I and II
Macro Labor, Seminar in Labor Economics I (audited) and II
Third-Year Research Seminar I and II

Programming Skills

Proficient with Stata, Matlab, LaTeX, Python, Unix/Linux, and FAME

Experience with PERL and SAS

NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp Essay

Anne M. Burton

I would like to attend the NBER health economics research boot camp because it offers a great opportunity to learn from active researchers in health economics, meet like-minded faculty and PhD students, and adopt the methods and insights taught into my own research and future teaching. My research focuses on the social welfare implications of risky health behaviors and crime, which sits primarily at the intersection of health and public economics. Additionally, given the observed time inconsistency and internalities associated with risky health behaviors, behavioral economics can provide many rich insights into this area. Learning about these topics and interacting with the program faculty and other students would be valuable for my research and career as a health economist.

The intersection of health and industrial organization is a research area that has rightly been growing in prominence and policy relevance in recent years. I enjoyed hearing about the role and importance of economic models in health care market design from Katherine Ho's plenary speech at ASHEcon this past summer. She described how she and her coauthor used plan choice, enrollment, and claims data from Harvard University to estimate a structural model of health insurance plan choice and medical utilization. They were then able to use this model to assess the effects of health plan menus and the welfare effects of counterfactual menu designs. This research has clear policy implications for health insurance reform in the U.S. I'm excited to learn more about this and related research from economists who are currently active in health and industrial organization. Improving my understanding of topics in health and industrial organization will be valuable for improving my ability to teach those topics and models in a health economics course when I am a professor some day.

Health and behavioral economics is another area with lots of exciting new research that I am eager to learn more about. In my coursework and my own research I have become familiar with behavioral economic models of addiction (e.g. cue-triggered decision processes), but I realize those are only one small part of health and behavioral economics. I am interested in hearing about other applications of behavioral economics to health, for example the role of behavioral economics in health insurance.

Health and public economics is the area I am most familiar with, with respect to the literature and my own research, but I am always excited to learn more about the research frontier, particularly from active researchers. Health and public offers an abundance of interesting questions that directly affect people's lives, whether it's through studying the effects of public policies on health behaviors or the health effects of government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. I look forward to improving my understanding of topics such as these ones.

In addition to learning about these topics in health economics from experienced researchers in the field, this boot camp will be a great chance to meet other PhD students in health economics. Whether it's discussing our research ideas or building long-lasting connections with future colleagues, this boot camp will be a great forum to meet and support other budding health economists.

Beyond the formal and informal interactions with the faculty and other participants, this boot camp sounds very helpful for learning about and incorporating new topics and

methods into my dissertation. The chapter that will be my job market paper studies how smoking bans in bars and restaurants affect both cigarette and alcohol consumption and alcohol-related externalities. I find no overall extensive margin effects of these smoking bans on smoking. With respect to alcohol consumption, I find that smoking bans that cover bars and restaurants induce smokers to drink an additional four drinks per month and nonsmokers to drink one additional drink per month. These increases are driven entirely by changes in bar and restaurant alcohol consumption (as opposed to at-home alcohol consumption). In contrast, I am unable to reject the null hypothesis of no effect of smoking bans on drunk driving fatalities or homicides. Taken together, these results imply that while smoking bans lead to unintended consequences in the form of increased alcohol consumption, there is no evidence to suggest that they lead to corresponding increases in alcohol-related externalities.

I am currently working on investigating the puzzling result for smokers' alcohol consumption. I had expected that a smoking ban would lower the marginal utility of drinking in a bar or restaurant for smokers, thereby inducing smokers to substitute toward home alcohol consumption and away from bar and restaurant alcohol consumption. I am testing two different (though not mutually exclusive) hypotheses. One, that this result is driven by the earlier days of the policy, when smokers could easily drive to a nearby jurisdiction that wasn't covered by a smoking ban and therefore continue to smoke and drink at the bar (many of these bans were implemented at the county or city level). Two, that smokers are substituting alcohol for cigarettes while at the bar (which may be reflected in intensive margin reductions in smoking).

After this, I will incorporate my empirical results into a theoretical model to conduct a welfare analysis. Abstracting away from alcohol-related externalities (given that I am unable to reject the null hypothesis of no effect) and changes in prices, it appears that nonsmokers are better off in a world with smoking bans. They drink a bit more and no longer experience the disutility of cigarette smoke. The welfare effects for smokers are less clear. On the one hand, they are also drinking more and they too no longer have to breathe in smoke at bars and restaurants. On the other hand, they are temporarily prohibited from smoking while they drink. I hope to be able to use a theoretical model to answer questions such as, under what conditions are smokers better off? If smokers are made worse off, what relative weights would a social planner have to assign to smokers and nonsmokers for this policy to be welfare improving?

Attending this boot camp will be valuable for my thinking about how to construct and extend the theoretical model. I am particularly excited about the possibility of constructing and solving a dynamic model that incorporates behavioral economics insights, particularly time-inconsistent preferences. Learning more about health and behavioral economics at this boot camp will help me decide what to incorporate in the model and how to model it.

In future work I plan to continue researching topics in health economics, public economics, and economics of crime. The chance to hear from leading researchers in the field will be a valuable opportunity for me to learn more about various areas of health economics that I haven't had much exposure to, which will help with my current and future research as well as my teaching. Finally, I am excited about the prospect of interacting and forming connections with other PhD students who could become potential coauthors or, at the very least, a helpful sounding board for future research ideas.

Cornell University
Department of Economics

John Cawley
Professor
Co-Director, Institute on Health Economics, Health Behaviors and Disparities
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Ithaca NY 14853
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October 9, 2019

Dear Ben, Katherine, and Jon,

I write in support of Anne Burton's application to participate in the NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp for Graduate Students. Anne is a fifth year student in the Economics Ph.D. program at Cornell University. I am the chair of her dissertation committee and have known her well since she began in the program.

Anne has completed, and done very well in, Cornell's two-course Ph.D. sequence in health economics. Thus, she has already invested heavily in the field of health economics and is poised to get maximum benefit from participating in the Boot Camp.

Her research focuses on the intersection of health and public economics. She is particularly interested in the social welfare implications of risky health behaviors. One of the chapters in Anne's dissertation tests for heterogeneous responses to smoking bans in bars and restaurants. She estimates difference-in-differences models that exploit the variation in the timing of smoking bans across states and over time to estimate the impact of the bans on the alcohol consumption of nonsmokers (who might be more attracted to smoke-free bars) versus heavy smokers (who might be less attracted to smoke-free bars, and thus substitute toward home consumption of alcohol). The models are estimated using individual data on alcohol consumption from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and household-level data on alcohol purchases from the Nielsen Consumer Panel. She is also estimating the effect of the bans on alcohol-related externalities such as drunk driving using data from the Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS).

Another chapter in Anne's dissertation exploits variation across cities in the timing of market entry by ride-sharing services (Uber and Lyft) on drunk-driving fatalities and motor vehicle accidents. The logic is that, after Uber/Lyft enter a city, one does not have to drive oneself to and from a bar, which may reduce drunk driving deaths (this is something that those companies have claimed to be true). To test this hypothesis, Anne constructed her own dataset of when Uber or Lyft entered the 100 most populous cities in the U.S. She merged that with data from the Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS), and she estimates difference-in-difference models of the impact of Uber/Lyft entry on the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents involving alcohol. Anne's estimates indicate that entry by Uber/Lyft results in a 4% reduction in nighttime drunk driving deaths; there is little change at first but the effect increases after a few years, presumably after more people begin using the service. I anticipate that both of these papers will be published in high-impact economics journals.

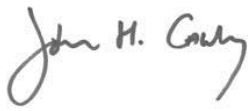
Anne is not only a first-rate researcher but is also an outstanding educator and a great citizen at Cornell. She did a fantastic job as teaching assistant for my undergraduate course, The Economics of Risky Health Behaviors. In that role, she cleaned datasets for the students, taught STATA tutorials, helped them with their coding, met with students during office hours, and did a heroic amount of grading. An example of Anne's citizenship is that, for several years, she has been the graduate student coordinator of our Health Economics Seminar, and in that role she meets with visiting

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speakers and takes responsibility for managing the logistics of their day and the seminar itself. She's done a fantastic job because she's extremely dedicated and hard-working. I know that students will be expected to read approximately 20 papers prior to the boot camp; I can assure you that Anne will have read them all carefully and with great interest. Anne has also twice been an invited attendee of the NBER Summer Institutes in Health Economics and Health Care. I mention these things because Anne is on the trajectory to have an outstanding academic career and accomplish great things, and participating in the NBER Health Economics Boot Camp would get her career off to an even better start.

In brief, Anne has my wholehearted and enthusiastic endorsement and recommendation. I hope that you admit her to the Boot Camp. I'm certain that she would benefit a lot from it, that her participation would enhance the experience of others, and that it would further advance her already very promising career.

Sincerely,



John Cawley

P.S. Numerous Ph.D. students from Cornell are applying for the boot camp. In an attempt to be transparent and helpful, here is my ranking of them, with the most deserving/qualified listed first:

1) Anne Burton – she has taken (and done very well in) both of our Ph.D.-level health economics courses, TA'd undergraduate health economics, for several years served as grad student coordinator of the health economics seminar, and has attended the NBER Summer Institute in Health Economics for two years.
2) Stephenson Strobel – ranked lower only because he is in the midst of taking the first of our two Ph.D. courses in health economics, and thus would benefit more from taking the boot camp next year after he's completed the sequence. As a plus, he is a physician who practiced for several years in Canada, and thus both has useful clinical knowledge and has access to hard-to-get medical records and other data in Canada.
3) Michael Daly - is in the midst of taking the first of our two Ph.D. courses in health economics, and thus would benefit more from taking the boot camp next year after he's completed the sequence.
4) Zihui (Lilac) Zhao – is in the midst of taking the first of our two Ph.D. courses in health economics, and thus would benefit more from taking the boot camp next year after she's completed the sequence.
5) Zihan Hu – promising but has not yet taken either of our Ph.D. – level health economics courses, so would benefit much more from the boot camp after taking them.