

**How has economics affected your career decisions? What do you do at the Board?**

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 1. I've had two jobs since coming out of college, and studying economics really inspired me to actually go back to try this research position. And I guess what I do currently is I'm a research assistant in the microeconomic survey section, and we primarily focus on the Survey of Consumer Finances. So that's a survey that's done every three years, and it focuses on household balance sheets. And since coming to the Board, we were basically in the data collection stage, so we'd be getting data back from the field, and then we'd work to process the data. I'd do a lot of, like, statistical coding, working a lot with, like, statistical packages to get that data ready to release to the public. And actually, just last week, we released our public data set, and along with that, we released some results articles as well as even a YouTube video that goes through our results, which I encourage you to check out. And our results kind of look at, like, what does income look like for different demographic groups? What does wealth look like for different demographic groups? What share of wealth does, like, the top one percent actually have? And then, I also do a lot with research projects that are often informed from my work on the Survey of Consumer Finances. So an example of a research project that I'm currently working on is we are modeling lifetime earnings to help us estimate Social Security wealth, and we're adding that to the typical wealth estimates that we get from the Survey of Consumer Finances, and we're doing that to understand questions of, are people prepared for retirement, and, what does inequality actually look like in the country?

SPEAKER. Jordan?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 2. So I came to the Board because, as I mentioned, like, I really was interested in the fact that economics could be applied to policy, and I wanted to continue doing that. So I found this job kind of by coincidence. The secretary at the economics department, Sue,

ended up sending like a blast email, and I was like, oh, like, that sounds interesting to me. Why not apply? So I applied not thinking much of it, especially because I knew I didn't have a lot of coding skills, which, as an undergrad, I didn't realize you, like, those were useful skills for economics, which they are. So I applied, and I ended up getting the position, and I work as a research assistant, as I said, in the trade section. So last year, I worked a lot on the forecasts, so the international forecasts and, like, forecasting how the economy will do, and how, like, that's changing, and how we should adjust based on that. And then, currently, I'm working as the oil RA, so as the oil research assistant, I process a lot of the energy data. And then, a recent example of something I've done is, with Hurricane Harvey and Katrina--uh, Hurricane Harvey and Irma, we analyzed the impact on gasoline and crude inventories based on, like, Katrina's and, like, other past hurricanes' impact. So that was exciting because I actually went up to the Board of Governors, and that helped them, like, understand what the impacts could be of the hurricanes.