



**HARVARD Kennedy School**

**MOSSAVAR-RAHMANI CENTER**  
for Business and Government **30** YEARS

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**John T. Dunlop Undergraduate Thesis Prize Winner:  
Trung Nguyen**

**CAMBRIDGE MA** – The Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government (M-RCBG) at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government is pleased to announce the winner of the 2012 John T. Dunlop Prize in Business and Government.

Trung Nguyen has won for her thesis: “It Is Easy to Be Brave from a Safe Distance: Distance to the SEC and Insider Trading.”

Ms. Nguyen is a senior at Harvard College graduating with an A.B. in Economics. She has worked as a research assistant to Harvard Professors Belen Villalonga, Beth Simmons, and Michael Stein. She plans to pursue a doctorate in economics.

The John T. Dunlop Thesis Prize in Business and Government is awarded to the graduating senior who writes the best thesis on a challenging public policy issue at the interface of business and government. The prize carries a \$500 award.

This year’s winning thesis by Ms. Nguyen examines the effect of geographic distance on the Security Exchange Commission’s (SEC) investigations and on firms’ insider trading practices. Ms. Nguyen has found that the SEC is more likely to investigate firms that are located nearby, and that firms located at greater distance from the SEC are more likely to engage in insider trading.

In explaining why the center chose to award the John Dunlop prize to Ms. Nguyen, John A. Haigh, executive dean of Harvard Kennedy School and co-director of M-RCBG, said that Nguyen’s thesis is “ambitious and well-executed, with robust results.” He also noted important policy implications of the research findings. “[The center] want[s] to have an impact—do the hard academic work and then have that carry over into public policy and policy making,” he said. “This paper is worth sharing.”

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John T. Dunlop, the Lamont University Professor Emeritus, was a widely respected labor economist who served as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1969 to 1973. An adviser to many U.S. presidents, beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dunlop was secretary of labor under Gerald Ford, serving from March 1975 to January 1976.

In addition to serving as secretary of labor, Dunlop held many other government posts, including: director of the Cost of Living Council, (1973-74), chairman of the Construction Industry Stabilization Committee (1993-95), chair of the Massachusetts Joint Labor-Management Committee for Municipal Police and Firefighters (1977-2003) and Chair of the Commission on Migratory Farm Labor (1984-2003).

Dunlop served as the second director of the Center for Business and Government from 1987 to 1991. The Center, renamed in 2005 as the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, focuses on policy issues at the intersection of business and government. Dunlop died in 2003.