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## Summer 2006 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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# THE ECONOMIC VIEW

## FROM THE CHAIR

The end of a school year brings accolades. We were delighted to find two of our majors, Jermaine Ogaja and Scott Proulx, receiving Excellence in Leadership awards from the student body. Scott's work in re-energizing our student economics association has been fantastic; the group is more than double its size and held a touching banquet to celebrate faculty. They voted Professor Dan Gallagher faculty member of the year. Jermaine is involved in more campus groups than I can tell you about, and won an internship in Washington D.C. this summer. Have a look inside this newsletter and see what the past year accomplished and what we have to look forward to with these new students.

The end of a school year brings changes. Approximately 30 students will be graduating from our undergraduate and graduate programs. We had a farewell dinner for Professors Dick Gleisner, Hal Lofgreen and Mike White; and with the good-byes, we will be saying hello to new faculty arriving at SCSU. We will start featuring them in "Meet the Professor" next fall.

The end of a school year brings preparation. We already have classes scheduled and books ordered, and we are already thinking about the students to arrive in Fall 2007. One thing we do is to seek out scholarships for our students. The SCSU Foundation now has three accounts specifically for scholarships – the Economics Scholarship, the Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship, and the brand-new Michael D. White Scholarship for our graduate students. We also have a foundation account for program development, such as the new seminar series begun by Professors Mana Komai and Ming Chien Lo this past year. I invite you to consider donating to these funds.

Best of all, the end of a school year brings summer. I wish you a happy time in yours.

**King Banaian**, Professor and Chair

## Faculty

Dr. King Banaian  
 Dr. Örn Bodvarsson  
 Dr. Mary Edwards  
 Dr. Daniel Gallagher  
 Dr. Philip Grossman  
 Dr. N. Eric Hampton  
 Dr. Patricia Hughes  
 Dr. Eungmin Kang  
 Dr. Mana Komai  
 Dr. Andrew Larkin  
 Dr. Ming Chien Lo  
 Dr. Hari Luitel  
 Dr. William Luksetich  
 Dr. Richard MacDonald  
 Dr. Masoud Moghaddam  
 Dr. Artatrana Ratha  
 Dr. Ken Rebeck

## MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **Hari Luitel** joined the Economics Department in the Fall of 2005. Before he came to pursue his doctoral studies at West Virginia University, Morgantown in 2000, he worked as a documentation and research officer at the Community Health Development Project, run by University of Calgary, Canada, in Nepal. Prior to St. Cloud State University, he taught at West Virginia University and West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhanan and at various private and public schools in Nepal. He specializes in public finance and environmental and natural resource economics. His research interests include state and local public finance, applied tax incidence, and international tax system. Dr. Luitel is a member of the American Economic Association, National Tax Association, and Omicron Delta Epsilon, an international honor society in Economics.

## CURRENT MAJORS & GRADUATES

Congratulations **Adam Schmitt!** Adam is a member of the SCSU SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team, which was named regional champion and will present at the national SIFE competition in May. This will be the second national competition they will have qualified for this year. The SIFE team coordinated 23 projects this year, teaching high school and college students about market economics, personal success skills, entrepreneurship, personal finance, and business ethics.

**Sasha Lugovskyy** presented "Predicting Gamble Choice using a Domain-Specific Risk-Attitude Scale" this spring at the MEA conference in Chicago.

In March, **Travis Deters** presented "Leadership in Groups: An Experimental Study" at the MEA conference in Chicago.

**Nate Raduns** and **Adam Schmitt** each received an Olga B. Satre Hart and College of Social Science Scholarship. Congratulations!

Our following majors presented papers at the SCSU 2006 Student Research Colloquium in April at Atwood Memorial Center:

### **Kimberly Dennie**

*The "Coalition of the Willing" Supporting the War in Iraq: Factors Influencing a Country to Join*

### **Travis Deters**

*Leadership in Groups: An Experimental Study*

### **Sasha Lugovskyy**

*Measuring Risk Aversion: Hypothetical Versus Real Decisions*

*U.S. Trade Deficit With China: Whose Fault Is It Anyway?*

### **Timothy McConnell**

*Liberal Abortion Laws: A Pull Factor for Mexican Immigration to the U.S.?*

### **Matthew Zabka**

*Does Funding Matter in Education?*

### **Fall 2005 Graduates**

**Matthew Amenrud**

**Opal DiCenso**

**Jennifer Hammerseng**

**James Jenson**

**Randy Johnson**

**Suman Kumar**

**Katherine Kustritz \***

**Russell Polum**

**Christopher Thiebaut**

**Obboon Vongsuriya \***

*\* indicates graduate student*

### **Fall 2005 COSS Dean's List**

**Opal DiCenso**

**Ulas Varoglu**

**Joshua Messner**

**Jeffrey Wehlage**

**Jason Nelson**

**Eric Winter**

**Carrie Olson**

**Matthew Zabka**

**Md Pramanic**

**Femi Salau**

**Adam Schmitt**

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Economics Scholarship

**Travis Deters**

**Jermaine Ogaja**

**Scott Proulx**

**Ulas Varoglu**

### Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics

**Travis Deters**

**Congratulations on your  
academic excellence!!!**

## WINTER INSTITUTE

The 12th Annual Economic Outlook and 44th Annual Winter Institute were both a success. Current majors, alumni, interested students, and community members attended the events. One student wrote "Connecting terms and phrases we learn in class to real world situations like those helps me a lot in doing well in class."

Mark your calendar for 2007. The EO and WI will be held February 22 & 23.

## FACULTY

**Philip Grossman's** paper "Subsidizing Charitable Giving with Rebates or Matching: Further Laboratory Evidence" (with Catherine C. Eckel), was published in the *Southern Economic Journal*.

Forthcoming for publication in the *Review of International Economics*, is **Artatrana**

**Ratha's** paper, "The S-Curve Dynamics of U.S. Bilateral Trade" (with Mohsen Bahmani-Oskooee).

**Artatrana Ratha** has submitted "The Bilateral S-Curve between Japan and Her Trading Partners" (with Mohsen Bahmani-Oskooee) to *Japan and the World Economy*; along with "The S-Curve from

Emerging Economies" (with Mohsen Bahmani-Oskooee and Ali Kutan) to *Emerging Markets Review*.

Revised and resubmitted to the *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, is **Artatrana Ratha's** paper "Exchange Rate Sensitivity of U.S. Bilateral Trade Flows" (with Mohsen Bahmani-Oskooee).

**Artatrana Ratha** will present "The Bilateral Trade Dynamics of South Korea" (with **Eungmin Kang**) at the *Western Economics Association* conference held in San Diego, CA this June/July.

Congratulations to **Dan Gallagher** for receiving the Economics Association Faculty Member of the Year award.

Farewell to Professor's **Gleisner**, **Lofgreen**, and **White** - you will be deeply missed and always welcome.

### Seminar Series presentations:

#### **Stephen Hosking**

Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan University  
Summerstrand Campus  
South Africa

*An Economic Approach to Allocating River Water to Estuaries in South Africa*

#### **Mana Komai**, SCSU

*Leadership in Groups and Organizations: An Experimental Study*

# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni from the Economic Outlook event enjoyed gathering and meeting past graduates and current majors.

Pictured from left: **Alison Mueller** '05,  
**Bill Schramm** '04,  
**Julie Williams** '03,  
**Erik Theisen** '04,  
**Carly Sanko** '04,  
**Nick Skudlarek** (Marketing '05),  
 and **Renee Konz** '04.



**Katherine Sauer**, a 1999 graduate, has accepted a faculty position at the University of Southern Indiana. Katie received her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder this May.

2005 graduate **Weeraya Khumyim** has changed jobs and is now employed by Mahidol University. Weeraya enjoys working as a Program Coordinator with the College of Management.

**Obboon Vongsuriya** works as a Credit Analyst in Thailand, where he technically evaluates companies' financial performance and suggests the credit condition. Obboon graduated in 2005.

Fall 2004 graduate **Peter Kinyua** is pursuing his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Auburn University.

**Opal DiCenso**, a 2005 graduate, has accepted a position with Wells Fargo's Global Custody and Trust division as an Investment Operations Specialist.

2004 graduate **Mike Schlauderaff** has been employed the last two years as a Sales Consultant for Pulte Homes. Mike tell us our newsletter is "...a great tool to reminisce about the good ole days at SCSU...", and states many of the principles (of economics) he learned in college are applied on a daily basis.

Congratulations! 2004 graduate **Alison Mueller** was promoted to the position of Funds Management Analyst for Minnwest Corporation. Alison assists in the management of interest rate risk, liquidity and loan pricing.

Spring 2006 Masters in Public and Nonprofit Institutions graduate **Breanna Staples** is employed with AgCode Inc. as a Project Coordinator.

Congratulations **Brian Zimny**! A 2004 graduate and Financial Advisor for Piper Jaffray, Brian was married to Sara in September. They reside in Sartell.

## YOU MAKE US GREAT!

Your support helps us to sustain excellence and will provide pathways to the future for many of our students who are preparing for jobs. Your gift will help us provide our students with a powerful education in economics, and enable our department to remain on the cutting edge with equipment and technology that is necessary when educating our future workforce. The first \$1,000 contributed will be matched by two private donors.

To make a tax-deductible gift to the Economics Scholarship, Michael D. White Scholarship in Economics, Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics, and/or the Economics Foundation, simply fill out the below and mail.

YES! I/We would like to make a contribution to the following:

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- Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics
- Economics Foundation

Please mail to:  
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 Alumni House  
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 St. Cloud, MN 56301

Check: Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to the *SCSU Foundation*.

Credit Card: Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ VISA MasterCard Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My name may be listed as a SCSU Foundation contributor: Yes No

**THANK YOU for your gift!**

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Visit the Economics Department online at: [www.stcloudstate.edu/economics](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/economics)

**W**e would like to hear from you! Our majors would like to know what you are doing with your degree, and so would we.

Information regarding who you work for and what your current position is, gives our graduating seniors resources when beginning to enter the job market.

Please keep us updated with articles or information about you for inclusion in our next newsletter. Feel free to e-mail us or complete the below and mail.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Current Job Position \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The goal of our newsletter, The Economic View, is to maintain lines of communication between all of our alumni and current students, and to keep you informed of the latest developments in the Economics Department.

Send all information to our editor:

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