

1-1-2006

Fall 2006 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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Recommended Citation

Department, Economics, "Fall 2006 Economics Newsletter" (2006). *Economics Newsletter*. Paper 9.
http://repository.stcloudstate.edu/econ_newsletter/9

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THE ECONOMIC VIEW

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to a new academic year! Every year is a new beginning, but this one promises more newness than usual. We have added three new faculty this fall, all with Midwestern connections. David Switzer is our newest microeconomist, coming to us from a teaching post at Northern Michigan University. He researches the movie theater industry, so he should be a very interesting person to take to Parkwood theaters this year. Lynn MacDonald just completed her Ph.D. at the University of Florida. An Ohio native, she studies public finance and will give us a great group to study local and state finances. And Yasemin Bardakci comes to us from Western Michigan University, after visiting the American University in Beirut. She is a macroeconomist and a skilled time series analyst.

The department faculty gathered in May to celebrate the retirement of three of the pillars of the program for the last thirty-plus years. Dick Gleisner, Hal Lofgreen, and Mike White were three of the people I looked up to in this department when I was a brand new faculty member in 1984. Mike took me to my first restaurant, Dick became my running partner for awhile, and Hal gave me the greatest gift of all in introducing me to my wife Barbara. We've arranged for each of those men to have a key to an office to stay in touch; Dick is seen here still almost every day (even though we made sure his Wall Street Journal went to his house.)

We continue to see our major grow in size. There are new programs being considered in mathematical and statistical economics, a satellite program in the Twin Cities, and opportunities to collaborate in teaching in far-flung places like South Africa and Mongolia. It should be an exciting year for us!

King Banaian, Professor and Chair

Faculty

Dr. King Banaian
 Dr. Yasemin Bardakci
 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. Lynn MacDonald
 Dr. Richard MacDonald
 Dr. Masoud Moghaddam
 Dr. Artatrana Ratha
 Dr. Ken Rebeck
 Dr. David Switzer

MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **David Switzer** joins our department this Fall. David grew up in Los Angeles and received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He attended graduate school in St. Louis at Washington University, and specialized in Industrial Organization and Applied Microeconomics. Prior to St. Cloud State University, he spent two years teaching at Northern Michigan University. His research interests include a variety of topics in applied microeconomics, and his dissertation and current research are on the movie industry. In his free time, David enjoys playing golf and basketball, and spends an unhealthy amount of time watching television.

GRADUATES

Spring Semester
2006

Adeyinka Adediran
Robert Anderson
Jay Backes
Stacey Burgers
Kimberly Dennie
Anthony Eilers
David Jensen
Alicia Krystofiak
Cory Markling
Carrie Olson
Phillip Roeder
Joseph Schmiesing
Zachary Smith
Breanna Staples *
Richard Sutter *

* indicates graduate student

DEANS LIST

College of Social Sciences
Spring 2006

Adeyinka Adediran
Kyle Hoggarth
Cody Hutchinson
David Jensen
Aanchal Kunwar
Kyle Palmer
Md Pramanic
Adam Schmitt
Ulas Varoglu
Jeffrey Wehlage

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

**Crumpton Farrell
Finance and Economics
Scholarship**

The Crumpton Farrell Finance and Economics Scholarship provides scholarships for students with double majors in finance and economics with GPA's of 3.0, who are active beyond their studies.

An e-mail will be sent to our current majors in the Fall regarding the application process.

WINTER INSTITUTE

Mark your calendar for February 2007. The 13th Annual Economic Outlook and 45th Annual Winter Institute will be held on February 22nd and 23rd. Details to follow in our next newsletter.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

We welcome graduate assistants **Rob Girtz**, **Karolina Jasinska**, and **Eric Winter** to the Applied Economics master's program, along with **Elias Agbazahou** to the Public and Nonprofit master's program. For the upcoming academic year, the Applied Economics program has twelve students and the PNI program has five.

FACULTY

Philip Grossman's paper "Are Women Less Selfish Than Men?: Evidence from Dictator Experiments" (with Catherine C. Eckel), published in *The Economic Journal* in May of 1998, was discussed in the Spring 2006 issue of *in character: A Journal Of Everyday Virtues*.

Forthcoming for publication in 2007, is **Mary Edward's** book, "Regional and Urban Economics and Economic Development."

Mana Komai's paper, "Leadership and Information" (with Mark Stegeman and Benjamin E. Hermlin) has been accepted for publication in the *American Economic Review*.

King Banaian visited Mongolia this summer, as part of a USAID-funded summer institute on economics and finance. He spent two weeks teaching benefit-cost analysis to 19 Mongolian business people and government officials.

Professors **Banaian**, **Bodvarsson**, **Kang**, and **Ratha** all attended the 81st Annual Western Economic Association International in San Diego, CA this summer.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations **Troy Olson!** Troy graduated this Spring from SCSU with his Master's in Business Administration with an economics emphasis. Troy is a 1999 graduate.

2002 graduate **Patrick Jacobson-Schulte** is currently working as a Budget Analyst for the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University. Patrick enjoys his position and is continuing his studies by pursuing an MBA degree at SCSU. Patrick states he "would not be in this position if it was not for my training at SCSU in the economics department."

2004 graduate **Blayne Penney** is doing well and enjoys working as a Customer Service Representative with GE Commercial Finance.

Julie Williams, a 2003 graduate, was recently promoted to Financial Consultant with Wells Fargo. She works on the Financial Reporting team, and builds the economic models for their Customer Service and Operations Departments.

She enjoys the move and working with the Senior VP's and the forecasting team. Congratulations Julie!

Sasha Lugovskyy has started the doctoral program in Economics at Purdue University.

2005 graduate **Noah Tobin** has been promoted to a Staff Accountant in Property Management Accounting with Target Corporation. His job is to analyze their contracts with the associations and verify billing accuracy, pay the bills, and reconcile any differences in the various accounts. Congratulations Noah!

Eric Winter, a 2006 graduate, is pursuing his master's degree in Applied Economics at SCSU. Eric was awarded a graduate assistantship for this academic year. Congratulations Eric!

2006 graduate, **Tony Eilers**, helps run the family farm. He indicates his knowledge in economics is put to use daily and "... everything we do deals with economics."

1st Lt. **William S. Johnson** is currently serving in Iraq on his second combat deployment. William states, "...the experience I was awarded [as an econ student] was invaluable and helped to shape my current profession, [as] infantry commander in the USMC." Along with, "The employment of economics is definitely relevant in a platoon commander's everyday life. Though we specialize in fighting, a commander's responsibility is to ensure the Marines are able to sustain the fight indefinitely. One must ensure resources are used accordingly (not wasted, because we need to physically move any and all water, chow, and ammunition everywhere we go). For instance, Marine needs X amount of rest per day, X amount of chow and water, X amount of ammunition, etc." Good analysis William and we wish you the best! William is a 2003 graduate.

Were you an Economics Association President at one time? If so, please contact us. We would like to feature past presidents in an upcoming issue and find out what you are doing now.

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 to the Michael D. White Scholarship in Economics 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.

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- Economics Foundation

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St. Cloud, MN 56301

Check: Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to the *SCSU Foundation*.

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We 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 valuable information upon their entry into the job market. Our students can also benefit from any internship opportunities your company may provide.

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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