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Fall 2007 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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THE ECONOMIC VIEW

FROM THE CHAIR

Click! goes my odometer. Every September is a milestone. I notice that one of our faculty who I think of as 'much younger than me' has now finished twenty years of service to the university. (Congratulations, Eric Hampton!) We hire another new faculty member (welcome, Ting Qin!) and say goodbye to a good friend who only was with us two years (farewell, Hari Luitel!)

The students are the one thing that stays constant. We have managed to permanently increase our major to about 120-130 majors per year. That means we have had to grow some, as we move people around for office space and try to fit more students into our classrooms (we still use the same four classrooms we used when I became chair six years ago, just more often.)

Click! We constantly hear good news from our alumni. I had the pleasure of meeting a dozen at the SCSU Night at the Dome this June, sitting with many of our recent graduates and hearing how they are moving through their careers, marrying, and raising families. Another wrote me recently asking for a letter of recommendation and saying, "I would love to share my hopes and dreams with you, to give you an 'updated' understanding of the man I have become, and the man I hope to become." I haven't had the opportunity to call him yet, but I will. What better gift can a professor get than this?

It's with that spirit that I can approach each fall as with great anticipation. Sure, I now face forty or so weeks of teaching and grading and advising, but the return on that investment pays over a lifetime.

Click! Time to start another year.



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. William Luksetich
 Dr. Lynn MacDonald
 Dr. Richard MacDonald
 Dr. Masoud Moghaddam
 Dr. Ting Qin
 Dr. Artatrana Ratha
 Dr. Ken Rebeck
 Dr. David Switzer

MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **Ting Qin** joined our department in August, 2007. She received her doctorate and M.A. degree from the University of Alabama, and holds a B.A. degree in Economics from the Central South University of Technology in China. Her areas of expertise are Applied Macroeconomics and Time Series Econometrics. Her current research focuses on the development and application of Time Series models in a variety of Macroeconomic topics such as evaluating monetary policy rules, modeling and estimating business cycles, and identifying sources of macroeconomic fluctuations. Her most recent publication is in the *Journal of Macroeconomics*. Her second passion besides economics is traveling.

GRADUATES

Spring Semester 2007

Julie Alman
Sean Beere
Evelyne Benie
Benjamin Chapin
Berit Christoff
Aissata Cisse
Rory Corrigan
Abigail Fredrickson
Tony Fremont
Travis Ganz
Kyle Hoggarth
Christopher Hunt
Aqib Jahangir
Daniel Kasper
Cole Loewen
Timothy McConnell
Joshua Messner
Alaric Myers
Oluseun Odumade
Jermaine Ogaja
Troy Olson *
Scott Proulx
Nathan Raduns
Femi Salau
Matthew Stofferahn
Holly Tappe

* indicates graduate student

DEAN'S LIST

College of Social Sciences
Spring Semester 2007

Jacob Ackerman
Rory Corrigan
Brittney Corrow
Hallie Elich
Lydia Gindele
Adam Hill
Christopher Hunt
Cody Hutchinson
Joshua Limanen
Michael Loehlein
Matthew Lovitz
Oluseun Odumade
Melissa Persons
Lester Pickford
Adam Schmitt
Daniel Spoden

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 email will be sent to our current majors in the Fall regarding the application process.

WINTER INSTITUTE

The SCSU Center for Economic Education is very pleased to announce that the 46th Annual Economic Education Winter Institute will be held on Friday, February 22, 2008, from 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in Ritsche Auditorium on the SCSU campus. The theme of the Winter Institute this year is "Race and Gender" and features David Neumark and June O'Neill, two internationally known experts on racial and gender discrimination and the role of public policy in countering discrimination.

The Annual Economic Outlook will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2008, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Kelly Inn in downtown St. Cloud. This year's panel features 4 experts on the local, state, national and international economies – Dan Laufenberg, Chief Economist at Ameriprise Financial, Tom Stinson, Minnesota State Economist, Tom Gillaspay, Minnesota State Demographer, and King Banaian, Professor and Chair of the Economics Department at SCSU.

More information about the Winter Institute will follow in the next newsletter and will be available on the Center's website, <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/economiceducation/> or by calling Örn Bodvarsson, Interim Director, at 320.308.2225.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

We welcome graduate assistants **Indra Lukas** and **Marta Podemska** to the Applied Economics master's program, along with **Chutima Suwanpattama** and **Wend-Kouni Nintiemma** to the Public and Nonprofit master's program. For the upcoming academic year, the Applied Economics program has 13 students and the PNI program has 14.

FACULTY

Ming Lo presented his paper "A Bayesian Analysis of Exchange Rate Dynamics" co-authored with James Morley and discussed another paper in a session at the 5th INFINITI Conference hosted by Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland in June, 2007.

Philip Grossman has had two papers accepted for publication: "Forecasting Risk Attitudes: An Experimental Study Using Actual and Forecast Gamble Choices" with Catherine C. Eckel, forthcoming in *Journal of Economic*

Behavior and Organization. And "Is More Information Always Better? An Experimental Study of Charitable Giving and Hurricane Katrina" with Catherine C. Eckel and Angela Milano, forthcoming in *Southern Economic Journal*.

This past summer **Ken Rebeck** completed his role as associate project director for the development, revision and norming of the Test of Understanding in College Economics, Fourth Edition (TUCE), a standardized test instrument with a long history of national and international use in principles-level assessment and economics education research. He also coauthored the TUCE Examiner's Manual

(Fourth Edition) with William B. Walstad (Nebraska) and Michael Watts (Purdue).

In June Ken was a visiting scholar at the Preparing Students for Success in a Global Society workshop for pre-college teachers held at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. Now he can add one more state to his list of states he has scored over 100 on a golf course.

Artatrana Ratha visited the Indian Council for International Economic Relations (ICRIER), July 23 through August 20, to work on a paper titled "Do over-valued Currencies Promote Growth?"

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Bruce DeJong, a 1984 graduate, is currently employed as the Finance Director for the city of St. Louis Park.

2006 graduate **Jeffrey Wehlage** will embark this fall on his second tour in Iraq. We wish Jeff the best and a safe return home.

Julie Williams, a 2003 graduate, greatly enjoys her work at Wells Fargo in Sioux Falls, SD. If you have graduated and are seeking employment, Julie is always happy to help anyone find a position if they are in the Sioux Falls area.

Did you know that one of our professors is an alumni of SCSU? **Dr. Mary E. Edwards** transferred to St. Cloud State University in 1979 and graduated with a B.A. in Economics in 1981. After earning her M.A. in Economics at the University of Missouri/Columbia, she continued on to the doctoral program at Texas A&M

University. This southern trend had to stop since her Spanish was extremely rusty, so she took a post to teach regional economics at SCSU in 1985. This spring, her textbook, *Regional and Urban Economics and Economic Development: Theory and Methods*, finally hit the market, and she is negotiating to get a contract for a version of the text written in French and directed toward the francophone audience.

She currently directs the Minnesota Economic Development Center, which will become a liaison between the expertise at SCSU and governments, organizations and businesses in outstate Minnesota by facilitating strategic planning or problem-solving of public and private organizations. Potential studies will engage faculty and students using various methods such as efficiency analysis, cost/benefit studies, economic impacts, economic base studies and market area analyses for the various entities.

Two years ago, Edwards returned to learning to play the oboe and plays regularly with a local (informal) ensemble.



Professor Mary Edwards

Our students are always looking for internship possibilities as they learn how to use their newly developed skills. Alumni are a great source of information and guidance for them. If you have heard of any opportunities, or can provide one in your firm, please email Patricia Hughes at pahughes@stcloudstate.edu.

YOU MAKE US GREAT!

Your gift provides both financial support and an emotional boost to students when they are chosen to receive a scholarship. These scholarships emphasize that small-to-medium sized gifts added together are quite valuable to worthy students.

To make a tax-deductible gift, simply fill out the below and mail to: **SCSU Foundation**, Alumni and Foundation Center, 720 Fourth Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301

Yes, I would like to make a gift of:

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Please use my donation to support the:

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___ Economics Foundation

___ My check is made out to "SCSU Foundation" and I have designated one of the above on the memo line.

Please charge my (circle one) VISA MasterCard Discover 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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Economics Department

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Visit our website: www.stcloudstate.edu/economics

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 your employer and your current position gives our graduating seniors valuable information as they enter the job market. Our students can also benefit from internship opportunities your company provides.

Please keep us updated with articles or news about you for inclusion in our upcoming newsletters.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Employer _____

Current Job Position _____

Email _____

The goal of our newsletter, The Economic View, is to maintain lines of communication between 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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