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Spring 2008 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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THE ECONOMIC VIEW

FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year!

For many of the newer faculty, this last month was the first real Minnesota winter. As the fall semester wound down, temperatures plunged and the ground was blanketed in snow. But inside, everyone was busy preparing for the spring and grading fall exams.

Andrew Larkin has announced he is retiring from the university this coming spring. Andy has taught with us since 1982 and provides us with expertise in developing economies and the history of economic thought.

We are looking forward to the next Winter Institute, scheduled for February 21-22 this year. Örn Bodvarsson has planned this year's theme on race and gender, and there will again be an Economic Outlook on the evening of the 21st along with our usual after-reception gathering of alumni and current students at the Kelly Inn. Be sure to watch for additional information on this by checking our website.

As always, if you are interested in receiving more news from us, we would love to have a current email address for you along with other details about where you are and what you are doing with your career and life right now. There's a place to cut out that information if you want to share it with us. And I love getting email. In the last few months I've gotten congratulations on the Red Sox from Jesse Howard and Alison Mueller, along with questions about Ben Bernanke from Sean Beere. Keep them coming!



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's **Richard Gleisner** and **Hal Lofgreen** retired in May of 2006 and Professor **Michael White** retired in December of 2006. All continue to visit our department regularly. This May, Professor **Andrew Larkin** will retire.

GRADUATES

Summer 2007

Jaspreet Bains
Ethan Bremer
Brian Craft
Anthony Dorn
Andrew Harmer
John Sullivan
Ying Yi Tan
Matthew Zabka

SCHOLARSHIPS

Economics Scholarship

Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics
Michael D. White Economics Fellowship

The above scholarships and fellowship are intended for majors in the Economics undergraduate and graduate programs.

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

WINTER INSTITUTE & ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The 46th Annual Economic Education Winter Institute will be held on February 21-22, 2008 and includes the acclaimed 14th Annual Economic Outlook (free), a food and cocktail reception (\$20) following the Outlook, the Winter Institute speakers' program (free) and the annual Winter Institute luncheon (\$10).

The Outlook will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. on February 21 in the Grand Ballroom at the Kelly Inn in downtown St. Cloud and features a panel of four experts on the local, state, national and international economies, who will provide their forecasts for the year ahead. The food and cocktail reception is from 6:30-9:00 p.m. poolside at the Kelly Inn.

The Winter Institute speakers' program, which focuses on discrimination in the marketplace and employment discrimination laws, will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on February 22 in Ritsche Auditorium on the SCSU campus and the luncheon will be held in Atwood Memorial Center on the SCSU campus from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

To see the full Winter Institute program, go to http://www.stcloudstate.edu/economiceducation/winter_institute.asp and for more information, contact Örn Bodvarsson, Department of Economics, SCSU, at obbodvarsson@stcloudstate.edu or 308.2225.

FACULTY

Principles of Macroeconomics, a textbook written by **Eric Hampton** was published in September.

Philip Grossman's paper "Is More Information Always Better? An Experimental Study of Charitable Giving and Hurricane Katrina" with Catherine Eckel and Angela Milano, has been published in the *Southern Economic Journal*, Volume 74, Number 2, October 2007.

Örn Bodvarsson presented a paper titled "Measuring immigration's effects on labor demand: a reexamination of the Mariel Boatlift" at the European Association of Labor Economists conference in Oslo, Norway, September 20-22.

Örn Bodvarsson gave a one-day workshop on "Microeconomics for Bankers" at

the annual Nebraska/Kansas Schools of Banking course, held in Grand Island, NE during the first week of October.

Örn Bodvarsson gave the keynote address at the Nebraska Association of Business and Economics conference, held at Hastings College in Hastings, NE, on October 26.

Philip Grossman presented two papers in November at the Southern Economic Association meeting in New Orleans. "Forecasting the Risk Attitudes of Women and Men: An Experimental Test of the Strength of Gender Stereotypes" with Oleksandr Lugovskyy; and "Is More Information Always Better? An Experimental Study of Charitable Giving and Hurricane Katrina" with Catherine Eckel and Angela Milano both of the University of Texas at Dallas.

Philip Grossman and 2003 graduate **Heidi Crumpler** had their paper "An Experimental Test of Warm Glow Giving" accepted for publication in *Journal of Public Economics*.

Artatrana Ratha, David Switzer, and **Mana Komai** are organizing the department's seminar series. This series was created to stimulate research activities and enhance connections with economists in the rest of the state and country. Presenters this past semester included:

David Lang, Sacramento State University *Financial Aid, Income, and the Choice of College Curriculum: Is the Economics Major a Normal Good?*

Ryan Compton, University of Manitoba *War! What is it Good For?*

John Siegfried, Vanderbilt University *The Economic Impact of Colleges and Universities*

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Holly Tappe, a 2007 graduate, currently resides in Morris with her husband Shane and their son Colbe. Holly is employed as a Financial Planning Assistant at First Federal Bank. They both love living and working in Morris and look forward to raising their family there.

2004 graduate **Erik Theisen** was recently accepted into the Carlson MBA program. Congratulations Erik!

2007 graduate **Joshua Messner** enjoys working as a Financial Analyst for Mesaba Airlines. Joshua says he “thoroughly enjoyed my time spent learning from all the amazing professors within the economics Department. I guess I shouldn’t have been in such a hurry to graduate. I’m still thirsty for Economics knowledge and seriously considering going for my masters (and maybe even my PhD someday so I can become an economist).” Good idea Joshua!

Scott Proulx is currently employed as a Loan Officer at TCF where he works with consumer lending - mostly secured real estate loans. Scott is a 2007 graduate.

2007 graduate **Benjamin Chapin** is employed at PeopleNet, a communications based company out of Chaska, as an Operations Department Billing Specialist. Ben encourages students to learn everything you can about Microsoft Excel, stating “It is a wonderful tool that can help make your life easier...If you know how to use it.” Ben concluded his email to us with, “Economics and S.C.S.U. was a decision that I will never regret, and I want to thank you [Dr. Banaian] and the entire faculty for always pushing me to do my best.”

Momodou Bah, a 2004 graduate, has been nominated at the national level for the Commonwealth Award to pursue a PhD in Economics.

Congratulations Momodou!

2007 graduate **Cole Loewen**, in collaboration with King Banaian, created a local recession indicator model for his Senior Seminar project which was featured in the St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report, published in the ROI October-December 2007 issue.

Anthony Dorn is currently employed as a Commercial Lending Officer at US Bank. Tony is a 2007 graduate.

Our students are as always looking for internship possibilities as they learn how to use their newfound skills. Alumni are a great source of information and guidance for them. If you have heard of any opportunities, or can provide an internship 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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___ Economics Foundation

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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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