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Fall 2009 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

St. Cloud State University, economics@stcloudstate.edu

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THE ECONOMICS BULLETIN

FROM THE CHAIR

Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." What makes our work "worth doing" is seeing our students excel. And as you'll read inside, they are. I am excited to have one of our undergraduates, Ben Karnatz, selected to travel with me and President Potter on a visit to Nankai University Binhai College for a continuation of the Winter Institute on Sino-American economic relations.

Our work has been helped by the addition of two high quality faculty members. Monica Garcia-Perez comes to us from the University of Maryland, where she studied labor economics. She will get ready now for our students and for our winter, which is very unlike those in her home country in Venezuela. Sam Schreyer is on a one-year appointment from Claremont Graduate University, where he studied international monetary economics. He's from Colorado, so Minnesota winters will not shock him.

But the best pleasure has been during the many public talks I have been giving the last two years since the beginning of the financial crisis. At nearly everyone someone comes up to say "I was a student at SCSU, and I had you as a professor" or "I had Professor X". They remember you, they remember what they learned. It's not a graph they remember or a formula. It's a person. At some point that person's mind was expanded to give them something to recall when they read the evening news, or talk to someone about their local economy. They remember two-dozen or more faculty. I'm just lucky enough to be the person they see. I try to take each story back to the faculty member they told me about.

However, if you would like to reach them directly, be sure to use our website, click the "faculty and staff" link, and find the address of the person you remember, and write them. Trust me, a note from a former student, even one as simple as "remembered you reading the paper" or "hope life is good", is surely going to get a response from us. Why? Because you remind us of the worth of our work.



Dr. King Banaian
 Dr. Örn Bodvarsson
 Dr. Mary Edwards
 Dr. Daniel Gallagher
 Dr. Monica Garcia-Perez
 Dr. Philip Grossman
 Dr. N. Eric Hampton
 Dr. Patricia Hughes
 Dr. Eungmin Kang
 Dr. Mana Komai
 Dr. Ming Chien Lo
 Dr. Lynn MacDonald
 Dr. Richard MacDonald
 Dr. Masoud Moghaddam
 Dr. Ting Qin
 Dr. Artatrana Ratha
 Dr. Ken Rebeck
 Dr. Sam Schreyer
 Dr. David Switzer

MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **Monica Garcia-Perez** joins our department this Fall. Professor Garcia-Perez completed her PhD in Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park this past Summer. Previously, she was employed as a researcher at the U.S. Census Bureau where she managed large micro databases on population demographics and industries. Her research interests include the economics of immigration, minority group income differences, entrepreneurship rates among these groups and self-employment. Additionally, she has also worked on topics related to development and growth in developing countries. In her spare time, she enjoys going to the gym, to movies with friends, yoga (Ashtanga/Vinyasa), dancing and any possible outdoor activity when the weather allows it.

GRADUATES

Spring 2009

Zachery Baack
Chad Bermel
Thomas Best
Benjamin Blomgren
Boston Cardinal
Aboubacar Coulibaly
Saeed Dahir
Brandon Dufner
Michael Eannelli
Robert Helland
Derrick Jenniges
Matthew Jensen
Eric Johnson
Mory Keita
Jordan Kordosky
Katie Lano
Sarah Larson *
Ying Lim *
Meagan McGlynn
Holly Mizer
Laura Morris *
Scott Robish
Garrett Stock
Chutima Suwanpattama *
Jun Yi Tan
Ong Yang
Ivy Zander

* indicates graduate student

DEAN'S LIST

College of Social Sciences
Spring 2009

Cassandra Ahrens
Alexander Banks-Watson
Thomas Conway
Adam Hill
Derrick Jenniges
Kara Kline
Zachary Lamb
Thu Le
Trent Mielke
Adam Minette
Dylan Novak
Katrina Pelzel
Melissa Persons
Scott Robish
Zachary Schlick
Robert Wilczek
Tou Xiong
Matthew Yonkovich
Ezekiel Zabertini

SCHOLARSHIPS

Crumpton Farrell
Finance and Economics
Scholarship

The Crumpton Farrell Finance and Economics Scholarship provides scholarships to students who are double majors in finance and economics.

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

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

We welcome graduate assistants **Arthur Busse**, **Elton Cocoli**, and **Edlira Kostallari** to the Applied Economics master's program, along with **Maribeth Bruhn-Kasi**, **Asm Ullah**, and **Nagini Yalla** to the Public and Nonprofit Institutions master's program. For the upcoming academic year, the Applied Economics program has 18 students and the PNI program has 10.

FACULTY

Lynn MacDonald has received a \$5200 grant for her Free Market Economics reading group. This is the second year Professor MacDonald received a grant provided by the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation.

King Banaian and **Richard MacDonald** were featured on the cover of the St. Cloud State University Spring 2009 Outlook Magazine for their work on the Quarterly Business Report and contributions to the St. Cloud community.

King Banaian and **Bill Luksetich** presented their paper "Sportswriters and Customer Discrimination in Major League Baseball: Evidence from Voting for the Hall of Fall, Revisited" at the Western Economics Association International annual meeting in Vancouver in July 2009.

King Banaian delivered a lecture "Macroeconomic Impact of the Financial Crisis on Armenia" to a conference sponsored by the IMF, World Bank and other international donor organizations in Yerevan, Armenia in July 2009.

Dan Gallagher continues with his participation in the senior to sophomore program where university classes are taught in high schools by high school instructors under the mentorship of a SCSU professor. Professor Gallagher has been involved in the program for 12 years and has Econ 201, Introduction to Economics, classes now being taught in nine schools around the state.

Richard MacDonald was named Faculty Member of the Year by the Student Economics Association last Spring.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

1997 graduate **Daniela Chavarria** is currently attending the EMBA at the Politecnico di Milano, Italy. She has completed her first year of study and plans to enter the work force soon. Daniela writes, "It really captivates my curiosity on the way people work here (this is in my area of work, which is consulting). Still taking Italian lessons because the language is very difficult. I never thought that this language was so difficult to learn, but it is challenging. I will soon start with my lessons of Chinese, looking at the world moving ahead."

Brian Zimny, a 2004 graduate, is currently employed as a Financial Consultant at RBC Wealth Management.

Sean McAvoy, a 2002 graduate, completed his MBA in Health Organization Management at Texas Tech University in the spring of 2005. He has since been working at the Diagnostic Clinic of Houston where he is currently the Administrator. Sean has also obtained his six sigma green belt last year.

2008 graduate **Luke Hillier** is currently employed by Target Corporation where he is involved in the Leadership Development Program. The first year they do two 6-month rotations exploring different areas of the business. His current project role is working in Dispute Resolution Services (DRS) more specifically working with Fraud Operations. Luke writes, "I would like to personally thank the St. Cloud State economics department for the education and guidance I received."

Peter Crook, a 1989 graduate, writes, "I was CEO at Upsite for 5 years, and recently moved into a position on the board and then Executive VP position where I focus on Alliances, M&A and JV opportunities, and OEM deals. As you can imagine, the modeling and academic basics learned from the fine instructors at SCSU have been used on the job.

I am also an Executive Consultant for Hyperion Power Generation (HPG). A new licensed technology from Los Alamos that is an Atomic powered

module that, unlike standard Nuclear, is a non- highly enriched fuel that is self moderating and safe. While the Mega-Watt output is considered too low for traditional large power plants, it has an application for remote areas, developing countries, and smaller remote applications."

2006 graduate **Eric Winter** was recently promoted to the Director of Trading at Element Markets LLC in Houston, Texas. Energy Risk Magazine recently named the company the 2008 U.S. Renewable Energy Credit Marketer of the Year. Element's REC desk was also recently involved in the first renewable energy credit futures contract transaction cleared on the Chicago Climate Futures Exchange, a Commodity Futures Trading Commission regulated Designated Contract Market. Congratulations Eric!

Renee Santanni, a 2000 graduate, is currently employed by US Bancorp as a Senior Financial Analyst in their Wealth Management department.

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Economics Department

Stewart Hall 386
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

Learn more at www.stcloudstate.edu/economics

We would like to hear from you! Our majors would like to know what you are doing with your degree. Information regarding your employer and your current position gives our graduating seniors valuable information as they enter the job market. Our students also benefit from internship opportunities your company provides.

Please contact us with updated employment information for inclusion in our newsletter.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Employer _____

Position Title _____

Email _____

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

Send all information to our editor:

Melanie Swan
Economics Department SH 386
St. Cloud State University
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

miswan@stcloudstate.edu

Phone 320.308.2227
Fax 320.308.2228

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