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Fall 2010 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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THE ECONOMICS BULLETIN

FROM THE CHAIR

As you are well aware, the university is not immune to the recession and the resulting state budget deficit. While the university will need to reduce the number of faculty lines by approximately 80, I am happy to report that as of today the economics department has emerged intact. The next phase of the reorganization involves a realignment of departments and programs, which will keep us busy over the upcoming year. Due to the hard work of our faculty and the success of our graduates, our programs have received flying colors. Now it's a matter of where we will be placed in the new university structure.

As I move into the chair's position, you may wonder where King Banaian is heading. King is on sabbatical and is running for the State House of Representatives seat representing MN District 15B. When he returns from sabbatical he will direct SCSU's Center for Economic Education.

As reported in the summer newsletter (Due to budget cuts, we were unable to print and mail our summer newsletter. We did email those who provided us with their email address.), our department has emerged from this recession exceptionally strong. Budgets are cyclical, but enrollment tends to be counter cyclical. We currently have 125 majors, 32 minors, and an unbelievable 25 Masters students in our Applied Economics Program. Our PNI Masters Program is currently at seven, and to increase enrollment we are considering restructuring the program with a Masters in Public Administration.

The recession is taking a toll on our graduates as we move into this jobless recovery. If you have any advice, leads, internships, etc. consider sharing your wisdom with the economics association. Lynn MacDonald and David Switzer are the advisors and would love to hear from you.

Let me close by asking for your help and support in the upcoming year. King has left me some big shoes to fill, and I'm sure I'll make plenty of mistakes along the way. There's a lot to learn, but I've got great support from my colleagues and students in the economics department.

Patricia Hughes

Dr. King Banaian
 Dr. Örn Bodvarsson
 Dr. Mary Edwards
 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. David Switzer

MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **Patricia Hughes** joined SCSU in 1988 and as of this Fall has assumed the role of department chair. Patricia writes, "When I came to SCSU in 1988 it was for a one year appointment. Coming from California, I had no intention of staying, especially after my first winter. I donned my long-underwear when it hit 30 degrees and cancelled my classes after the first snow storm. But I really like the faculty and students, and 22 years later I still hate winter. I am firmly settled in St. Cloud, with 2 girls at Tech HS, 2 dogs, 2 cats, 1 bird, 3 fish, and 1 hermit crab. If my work doesn't keep me busy enough, my family certainly does. With a great job, good friends, and an active family, St. Cloud has truly become home."

GRADUATES

Spring 2010

Bem Andzenge
Helen Carruth
Molly Deisher
Ryan Gade
Derrek Helmin
Sean Johns
Benjamin Karnatz
Matthew Kirschenman
Kara Kline
Zachary Lamb
Enna Luitel
Randall May
Trent Mielke
Derek Mihm
Adam Minette
Hung Nguyen
Hermine Nintiema *
Isaac O'Donnell
Matt Roisum
Mason Schirmer *
Christopher Warzecha
Jonathan Weber
Nathan Wentzlaff
Danielle Wicker
Matthew Yonkovich
Ezekiel Zabertini

* indicates graduate student

DEAN'S LIST

College of Social Sciences
Spring 2010

Cassandra Ahrens
Joshua Albrecht
Alexander Banks-Watson
Derek Bartko
Jennifer Danzl
Amy Finsky
Frank Hancock
Benjamin Karnatz
Matthew Kirschenman
Kara Kline
Zachary Lamb
Taylor Metzger
Nhu Nguyen
Jeremy Pekarek
Clark Redlinger
Benjamin Sorenson
Robert Wilczek
Ezekiel Zabertini

FACULTY

"The Economics of Immigration: Theory and Policy," co-authored by **Örn Bodvarsson** and Hendrik Van den Berg, has been published by Springer-Verlag. The book is the first of its kind, a comprehensive survey analysis of the academic literature on why people migrate along with the consequences of immigration and immigration policy.

Örn Bodvarsson presented a paper titled "Assessing the Effects of Restrictions on Migration: What Can We Learn From China?" at the "Migration: A World in Motion" conference at the University of Maastricht in February and at the Population Association of America (PAA) conference in Texas last April.

Mana Komai and **Philip Grossman's** paper "Leadership and Information in a Single-Shot Collective Action Game: An Experimental Study," has been accepted at the journal *Managerial and Decision Economics*.

Philip Grossman (co-authored with Catherine Eckel, Sherry Li, and Tara Larson Brown), conducted a study investigating the potential effect of allowing voluntary donations to government that are earmarked for specific purposes. The article is in the August 22 edition of *The Dallas Morning News*.

Örn Bodvarsson's paper, "The Regulation of Migration in a Transition Economy: China's Hukou System," (co-authored with Shuming Bao, Jack W. Hou, and Yaohui Zhao) was accepted for publication in *Contemporary Economic Policy*.

Örn Bodvarsson's paper, "Nationality Discrimination in the Labor Market: Theory and Test" (co-authored with John G. Sessions) was accepted for publication in *Migration and Culture*.

Örn Bodvarsson presented a paper titled "The Effects of Aging on Migration in a Transition Economy" (co-authored with Jack W. Hou) at the Chinese Economist Society conference in Xiamen, China, and the WEAI conference in Portland, OR this past summer.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

We welcome graduate assistants **Lorena Cobo**, **Elizabeth Dalzen**, **Benjamin Karnatz**, **Joseph Ojanen** and **Jun Yi Tan** to the Applied Economics master's program, along with **Patrick Brama** to the Public and Nonprofit Institutions master's program. For the upcoming academic year, the Applied Economics program has 25 students and the PNI program has seven students.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

2001 graduate **Sarah (Wenzel) Williams** has been promoted to Senior Sales Forecasting and Operations Analyst for Kao Corporation. Congratulations Sarah!

2010 graduate **Jonathan Weber** is currently employed at the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the PPI division as an Economist. Jonathan writes, "Many of the people I have met here have degrees from well-known universities. Personally, I feel that the education I have received is at least as good as the higher priced degrees of my colleagues."

2010 graduate **Ben Karnatz** has been accepted into our Applied Economics Master's Program this Fall. Ben received a graduate assistantship in the program as well. Over the summer, Ben stayed busy with a graduate level statistics course at Iowa State University.

Zachery Baack, a 2009 graduate, is back at SCSU pursuing an MBA. Zach works on campus at the Information Desk in Atwood Memorial Center and is serving as the President of the Student Economics Association.

Kristie (Kuderling) Feinberg, a 1998 graduate, has completed the MBA program at Columbia University. Kristie is the Vice President of Corporate Treasury at Oppenheimer Funds.

2005 graduate **Scott LeSage** writes, "I believe (as I have said many times) Economics is a great major and has given me a lot of opportunities since graduation. I have always been a true entrepreneur at heart but have enjoyed working in corporate America and for different companies in different roles over the last five years. It has allowed me to learn a ton about big, mid-sized and smaller businesses from both a macro and micro level and has increased my overall knowledge base. My new venture is a restaurant/event center off of Long Lake in Park Rapids we are calling "North Point Lodge" (northpointmn.com). My cousin, an executive chef for Hilton in Omaha and myself will be 50/50 partners in this new venture. It will truly be an interdependent relationship with his food and beverage experience paired up with my business background. Please come visit us if you come up this way."

2010 graduate **Derek Mihm** will be attending the University of Minnesota School of Law this Fall. Derek was accepted to several law schools, and received a scholarship from the U of M, where he will be attending classes this fall.

Atthawet (Pond) Prougestaporn, a 2003 graduate, is pursuing a PhD at Assumption University of Thailand, an international university where he studied at the undergraduate level. Pond is currently the Vice President for Student Affairs at Dusit Thani College in Thailand.

WINTER INSTITUTE

Mark your calendars! The 49th Annual Winter Institute will be held at St. Cloud State University—Ritchie Auditorium and Ballroom on March 3, 2011. The theme is "Preparing Workers for the New Economy."

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Thank you for your gift.



Economics Department

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Learn more at www.stcloudstate.edu/economics

We love getting feedback from our alumni! Please keep in touch with us and let us know about exciting events in your life. We love learning about what you are doing with your degree and would like to publish the information in our newsletter. Information regarding your employment gives our current students valuable information as they enter the job market.

Our students benefit greatly from internship opportunities. If your company provides internships, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us with updated employment information such as employer and position title, mailing address, email, etc. You can reach us by snail mail, email, phone, or fax as listed to the right.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please let us know if you have suggestions on how we can make our newsletter more meaningful to you. We hope to hear from you soon!

The goal of our newsletter, The Economics Bulletin, is to maintain communication between our alumni, faculty, and current students.

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