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Spring 2012 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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THE ECONOMICS BULLETIN

FROM THE CHAIR

Best wishes over the holiday season and into the New Year. I know this has been a trying year for many, but hopefully the recent gains in the economy will provide opportunities and stability to all as we move forward. The department is also moving the newsletter forward into the Green Economy. This will be the last printed newsletter mailed out to your home from the Economics Department; in the future we will move to electronic distribution. We hope to keep the same circulation, but need many of you to supply us with your email address at economics@stcloudstate.edu. Be assured that your address will be used exclusively for our newsletter; absolutely nothing will breach the confidentiality of this list. Hopefully this move towards efficiency will not be the tipping point for the U.S. Postal Service.

We have a visiting scholar from China again this year. Shuhui (Alice) Zhang will be here for a full year, pursuing research in public finance and the nonprofit sector. We hope to initiate more cross-cultural collaborations and keep open the door for future visiting scholars.

For a full list of the current research projects being undertaken by the department, go to the Repository at St. Cloud State for online access. In addition, you can view a video clip of Monica Garcia-Perez on the SCSU homepage presenting her work on the question of health care access of first and second generation children of immigrant families in the United States. You may also notice that she has a baby girl due in February. Let's give a big welcome to Annabel Amelie Garcia Cort!

As our position in the new School of Public Affairs solidifies, you will be apprised of opportunities to participate in various activities. Until then, we have the Winter Institute to look forward to (February 29 - March 1). We are moving the evening events off campus to the Kelly Inn, affording plenty of time for socializing and catching up.

Dr. King Banaian

Dr. Örn Bodvarsson

Dr. Mónica García-Pérez

Dr. N. Eric Hampton

Dr. Patricia Hughes (*chair*)

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 **King Banaian** is back teaching since ending his time as chair in July 2010. Running for the state representative seat in the MN 2010 election, he won by a very narrow margin. He serves in St. Paul in spring and teaches in summer and fall. "It has been fun to be back with students full-time again, and I have been trying out some new courses based on what I'm learning as a legislator," King said. This included teaching urban economics for the very first time this fall. "Cities are fascinating, and St. Cloud's economic history and development is particularly an interest of mine. Our roots are in granite, food and transportation, and that history is still with us and affects how we develop." He also taught sports economics between fall and spring semesters, where the Vikings often come up.

GRADUATES

Summer 2011

Amber Aeshliman

Cristofer Boundzanga-Makolela

Mark Hansberger

Yuri Hupka

Luke Nietz

Tracy Selchow

Robert Wilczek

SCHOLARSHIPS

During the spring semester, all economics majors will receive application information via email regarding the following scholarships:

Crumpton Farrell Finance and Economics Scholarship

Economics Department Scholarship

Robert and Ronald Besonen Endowed Scholarship

Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics

Michael D. White Economics Fellowship

www.stcloudstate.edu/economics/scholarships.asp

FACULTY

King Banaian's paper, "Fiscal and monetary institutions and policies: onward and upward?" (with Richard C.K. Burdekin, Mark Hallerberg, and Pierre L. Siklos) was published *Journal of Financial Economic Policy*, Vol. 3 Iss: 4, pp.340 - 354.

Ming Lo was awarded a contract by Springer Publishing, for writing a book titled Monte Carlo Simulations and Time Series Forecasting: An Introduction to Statistics and Applied Econometrics. Ming will receive one reassigned time to complete this work, which he will take during academic year 2012/13.

Mónica García-Pérez presented "The Impact of Parental Nativity and Region of Birth on Children's Use and Access To Health Care" at the end of November at SCSU. Professor García-Pérez will participate in one of the sessions during convocation week at SCSU in January, speaking on immigrants health and wellness.

WINTER INSTITUTE

The 50th Winter Institute at St. Cloud State University

Green Economic Growth: How Natural Resources Will Shape Our Economy and Our Community

The 50th Winter Institute will be held on February 29 at the Kelly Inn in downtown St. Cloud and March 1, 2012 on the campus of St. Cloud State University.

This is what the 50th Winter Institute is about:

This year, we will explore the relationship between natural resources and our economy. From New Orleans and Japan, we learned how fragile our economy and our society can be in the midst of natural disasters. Even when the epicenter is thousands of miles away, the economic shock waves can reach home in this era of accelerating economic globalization and nanosecond technological innovations. What these tragedies exposed are our limited energy options that fuel the United States and the global economy with a population of 7 billion. How can we meet these challenges and, more importantly, find opportunities to improve our community and our economy? What roles should governments and businesses play?

The following is a snapshot of our exciting 2012 program:

- From green technology to business practices
- Oil prices, exhaustible energy and economic growth
- Regulation of green house gases in the United States
- Regional entrepreneurs on "going green"
- Annual economic outlook of the United States, Minnesota and St. Cloud

Speakers and panelists include:

- Lynn Scarlett, Visiting Scholar at Resources for the Future and Former US Deputy Secretary of the Interior
- James D. Hamilton, Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego and co-author of Econbrowser blog
- Richard D. Morgenstern, Senior Fellow at Resources for the Future and Former Director, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Chris Farrell, Economic Editor, Marketplace Money, American Public Media
- Scott Anderson, Wells Fargo
- King Banaian, SCSU
- Steve Hine, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

For more information, please visit: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute/>

ALUMNI

Yawovi (Sessi) Komlanvi, a 2011 graduate from our Master's in Applied Economics program, is currently employed at UnitedHealth Group as a Healthcare Economics Consultant.

Patrick Jacobson-Schulte, a 2002 graduate, is currently employed at Saint John's Preparatory School as their Chief Financial Officer.

Holly Tappe, a 2007 graduate, is currently employed at Grygla High School as a Special Education Teacher. Holly, her husband Shane, and their two sons Colbe and Cooper are expecting the arrival of the newest addition to their family in April.

Joshua Limanen, a 2009 graduate, is currently employed with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as an Associate National Bank Examiner. Joshua, his wife Holly, and daughter Kylie welcomed little brother Kent into the world in December.

Alison Mueller, a 2005 graduate, graduated from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota this past summer. Alison is now the Assistant Vice President of Finance at Minnwest Corporation.

Brandon Swartz, a 2009 graduate, currently works for the Department of Navy as a Contract Specialist in Washington D.C. Brandon writes, "In April 2011, I graduated from Michigan Technological University with a Master of Science in Applied Natural Resource Economics. My graduate research examined the change in Afghan opium production due to political conflict affecting Europe's heroin market and government policies. This research used an econometric model to reveal the supply and demand of heroin in 36 different countries from the Middle East to Western Europe in 2008 predicting socioeconomic consequences. Other research projects at Michigan Tech included an analysis of U.S. violent crime rates and restructuring the implementation of U.S. energy subsidies. SCSU developed my understanding and application of economic theory and econometrics. Working with Dr. Switzer on movie industry research was a tremendous benefit. The way I interpret information can be derived from receiving intuitive and progressive education, inspiring my graduate research and career. This was vital to my graduate studies and put me ahead of other individuals seeking employment."

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Winter Institute: Please join us for the 50th Winter Institute which will be held on February 29 at the Kelly Inn in downtown St. Cloud and March 1, 2012 on the campus of St. Cloud State University. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with other alumni and faculty. Professor Ming Lo is the director of the Winter Institute this year. He has made changes to this year's venue and welcomes your input for future events.





Economics Department

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Learn more at stcloudstate.edu and m.stcloudstate.edu

We love correspondence from our alumni! Please keep in touch with us—we would like to know what you are doing now, along with learning about exciting events in your life. We welcome new information to include in upcoming newsletters.

Internships

We are always trying to expand our internship program. Let us know if your company offers internships and we will share this information with our majors.

Donations

Please consider giving; no donation is too small. Donating provides both financial support and encouragement to student recipients. We have several accounts to choose from:

Economics Scholarship (*undergraduate scholarships*)

Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics (*undergraduate scholarships*)

Michael D. White Economics Fellowship (*graduate scholarships*)

Economics Foundation (*student and department research/activities*)

Information on ways to give can be found at
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/foundation/waystogive/>.

Let us know if you have suggestions on how we can improve our newsletter.
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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St. Cloud State University values diversity of all kinds, including but not limited to race, religion and ethnicity.

St. Cloud State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer.

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