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Fall 2014 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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Economics Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR

The beginning of each new school year is such an exciting time, because everything is new or at least different. Students have new things to learn in a new year's set of courses. And faculty have new research projects and in some cases new classes to teach. Hopefully all students are registered for their courses, because the changes in the department require fewer courses to be offered not only this fall but for the spring semester (so register as soon as your registration window opens!). Dr. Patricia Hughes has requested to spend another year as the interim Dean for Graduate Studies and Associate Provost for Research, and it was an offer she could not refuse. In addition, Dr. King Banaian was asked to replace Dr. Orn Bodvarsson (a former Economics faculty member who is now at Sacramento State University in California), as interim Dean of the School of Public Affairs. However, Dr. Banaian was the SOPA Research Institute Director, and President Potter asked Dr. Richard MacDonald if he would take that position for a year, which he graciously did. However, that means we are short nearly three full time faculty members in the department, so our ability to supply the same number of courses is greatly restricted. Fortunately, we do have one new member being added to our department in Dr. Nimantha Manamperi, whose PhD is from Texas Tech University and is originally from Sri Lanka. Please welcome him when you see him in class or in the hallway. Additionally, Mana Komai was promoted to full professor and Monica Garcia-Perez was tenured and promoted to associate professor over the past year.

So we have many new and different things to offer during the coming year. A few of us (me in SH 386, Garcia-Perez in SH 379, and Manamperi in SH 373) even have new offices! The last and maybe best of the new things, it is with great excitement that we announce our brand new web page for the Economics Department. Take a look by visiting <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/economics/> and like us on Facebook if you like it.

Nathan Hampton
Interim Chair

MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **Nimantha Manamperi** joins our department this Fall. Nimantha earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics from the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka and both his masters and PhD in Economics from Texas Tech University. His primary research interests are mainly focused on monetary macroeconomics, central banking, financial crisis and economic growth. Nimantha also focuses his research on economic education and development economics. Most of his research focuses on BRICS nations and south Asia.

Prior to SCSU, he worked as an Assistant Professor in Economics at Berea College in Kentucky and as a Business Analyst at Roomsnet International (Pvt) Ltd in London. He lives with his wife Chathurada and daughter Aakya.

CURRENT STUDENTS

Conference

The Minnesota Economic Association 2014 conference will be held on Friday October 10 at Hamline University. This is a very good option for students who want to see current topics in economics discussed by well-known economists. This event is organized by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. For more information email migarcia@stcloudstate.edu or visit <http://www.minneapolisfed.org/mea/>.

New Class Offered Next Semester

The Economics of Immigration (ECON 484/584) will be offered during Spring 2015 by Dr. Garcia-Perez. This course will discuss the impact of immigration on the economy and recent changes in immigration law, along with learning about immigration in the US and elsewhere. The class will meet on MWF from 1-1:50 pm.

Study Abroad Opportunities



On March 4-17, 2014 Professor Lynn MacDonald participated in the South Africa spring break trip. Facilitated by Multicultural Student Services and the Ethnic Studies department, the trip was designed to provide an enriching educational experience for faculty, staff, and students. Lynn writes, "Everything about this trip exceeded my expectations and provided an intellectually stimulating and personally fulfilling experience. Whether I was meeting with students, visiting Nelson Mandela's home, or going on safari, I learned and experienced so much in such a short time."

While in South Africa, Lynn spent several days at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) to enhance collaborative efforts as well as to strengthen our existing partnership with the School of Economics, Development and Tourism. During her time on campus, she was able to meet with students and faculty in business and economic sciences. Lynn writes, "Everyone I encountered was so gracious and so welcoming. It is my hope our economics



students will consider studying abroad in Port Elizabeth, and NMMU economics students will consider doing the same on our campus. Studying abroad and gaining international experience is becoming more and more valuable in the workplace and SCSU's agreements with NMMU (and many other international universities) make it easy to take advantage of these opportunities. If you are interested in learning more about study abroad opportunities at NMMU, check out the following link: <http://international.nmmu.ac.za/>.

Please contact me with any questions or for additional information about NMMU. Don't miss out...explore the world and your future!"



ALUMNI



Patrick Jacobson-Schulte, a 2002 graduate, has accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer of The Sage Colleges in upstate New York. “Patrick Jacobson-Schulte’s vision and strategic thinking will be a strong asset to our financial leadership team at The Sage Colleges,” said Sage president Susan C. Scrimshaw. “His depth of knowledge and proactive planning will continue to enhance Sage’s viability and propel our institution and its mission forward into our centennial and beyond.”

Patrick writes, “I truly believe that my skills in the area of financial management will lead The Sage Colleges toward a long range financial plan that will closely tie to the goals of its strategic plan, The Sage Road to the Future, all while placing an emphasis on institutional and educational investment. Together we will be looking forward, while remaining cognizant of the past. This

will allow The Sage Colleges to continue to strive toward great achievements and hold firm to its foundational values.”

Joseph Kucan, a 2013 graduate, who was pursuing his Master’s in Applied Economics has been accepted into law school at George Mason University.

Michael Loehlein, a 2008 graduate, just finished an MS in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC. Michael is currently employed as a Consultant at Summit Consulting, LLC.

Sarah Williams (Wenzel), a 2001 graduate, and her husband Brian welcomed the birth of their beautiful daughter Avery in April. Congratulations!!



GRADUATES

Spring 2014

Nicole Arrigoni

Brian Barnes

Jordan Barrett

Ian Bernick

Jason Bounsavath

Zachary Carter

Zhichao Diao

Mitchell Hercules

Mitchell Holthaus

Yuri Hupka*

Alec Jenniges

Andrew Keck

Michael Kuperus

Brent Larson

Eric Marshall

Benjamin Mikelson

Levi Radika

Tessa Rohl*

Paul Ryan

Natasha Sanford

Dale Stauffenecker

Oliver Tempel

** indicates graduate student*

DEAN'S LIST

**School of Public Affairs
Spring 2014**

Anthony Counce

Jesse DesMarais

Alexander Franta

Christopher Johnson

Eric Marshall

Brad Stieber

Olga Strelchuk

Oliver Tempel

Bradley Waidelich

SCSU recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement by awarding certificates each term, with the exception of summer semester, to students who earn a grade point average of 3.75 or better. A student must be a degree seeking enrolled student, and must complete at least nine credits of ABCDF-graded courses to be eligible for the award.

WINTER INSTITUTE

The 53rd Winter Institute will be held on February 18 and 19, 2015.

The Keynote Speaker on the 19th will be Professor David Levinson, who will present "The Transportation Experience: From Steamboats to Streetcars." His talk will explore the historical evolution of transportation modes and technologies with an array of examples which supports the idea that modern policies are built from past experiences.

Professor Levinson serves on the faculty of the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo-Engineering at the University of Minnesota and as Director of the Networks, Economics, and Urban Systems (NEXUS) research group. He holds the Richard P. Braun/CTS Chair in Transportation. He also serves on the graduate faculty of the Applied Economics and Urban and Regional Planning programs at the University of Minnesota.

Please email Cindy Fitzthum, the Director for Economic Education, at cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu or Dr. Ming Lo at mclo@stcloudstate.edu for more information.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

We welcome graduate assistants **Zac Carter**, **Teegbzanga (Dominique) Kabore**, **Paul Ryan**, and **Yasemin Yucedag** to the Applied Economics master's program. For the upcoming academic year, the Applied Economics program has 15 students enrolled.

FACULTY

Mónica García-Pérez's paper, "Immigrant Workplace Concentration" with A. Frederick, J. Haltiwanger, K. McCue, and S. Sanders. *Demography*. Forthcoming 2014.

As part of the University Research Funds Award (2014), **Mónica García-Pérez** visited D.C. this summer to meet with several grant officers from the National Science Foundation to discuss grant opportunities for an upcoming project on attitudes towards immigration in Central Minnesota (with Anne-Marie Finan, Department of Sociology). She also participated in a workshop organized by the National Health Institute.

SOPA Semester in Alnwick

The Fall Semester 2015 presents a great opportunity for economics majors and minors to study at the SCSU site in Alnwick, Northumberland, England. Economics professor **Rich MacDonald** will serve as the SCSU faculty member (teaching Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 205), Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 206), Money and Banking (ECON 471), and Contemporary Economic Problems: The British Economy (ECON 483)). Professor Michelle Kukoleca Hammes of the Political Science Department will be directing the Fall 2015 Alnwick program and will be teaching a course in political science. As usual, students will also take classes from British faculty on British History and Contemporary Britain. Students from across campus are encouraged to apply for the program. The focus of the program on economics and political science should be attractive to students from the School of Public Affairs (SOPA). SOPA students may count these courses toward their major/minor, continue fulfilling Liberal Education Program requirements, or apply the courses to the British Studies minor. Drs. Kukoleca Hammes and MacDonald look forward to integrating student experiences across all courses and applying a common public affairs perspective. Questions about the program can be directed to Dr. Kukoleca Hammes, Dr. MacDonald, or the Center for International Studies.

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

Donating to our scholarships 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/>.

Dr. King Banaian

Dr. Mónica García-Pérez

Dr. N. Eric Hampton (*interim chair*)

Dr. Patricia Hughes

Dr. Eungmin Kang

Dr. Mana Komai

Dr. Ming Chien Lo

Dr. Lynn MacDonald

Dr. Richard MacDonald

Dr. Nimantha Manamperi

Dr. Masoud Moghaddam

Dr. Artatrana Ratha

Dr. Ken Rebeck

Dr. David Switzer

The goal of our newsletter is to maintain communication between our alumni, faculty, and current students. If you have questions or comments, please email our editor at miswan@stcloudstate.edu.

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