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Spring 2017 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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Economics Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR

Happy Holidays from the Economics Department. As another semester comes to an end, it makes me reflect on the importance of keeping in touch with students, colleagues, and friends. This year the American Economic Association Annual Meeting will take place in Chicago, Illinois. Quite a few of the faculty from SCSU will be in attendance to network and celebrate new ideas and innovations in economic research. I will be meeting with friends from graduate school who are now scattered across the nation, emeriti faculty from SCSU, and faculty from SCSU who have long since left the institution for new opportunities. This is a great opportunity to reconnect and reminisce about shared experiences and future endeavors. If any of you are in Chicago on January 6-8, then I'd love to hear from you.

Additionally, the Winter Institute in February is a great opportunity for our alumni to reconnect with friends and faculty. Deirdre McCloskey will be the keynote speaker at the 55th Winter Institute, providing an opportunity to network, socialize, and hear from an amazing woman with a very unique perspective on economic innovation and development. Information and updates on the Winter Institute can be found on the link on our website www.stcloudstate.edu/economics.

We appreciate the personal and career updates that our alumni provide for the newsletter, and would love to see you all this February! Patricia

MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor Nimantha Manamperi joined our Economics Department in 2014. He continues to focus his research on economic growth and monetary policy. He recently started working on a new area, economic education. Dr. Manamperi and his wife, Chathurada, and daughter, Aakya, recently welcomed a baby girl, Aadya to their loving family. They currently live in Maple Grove. In his spare time he enjoys playing with his two daughters, listening to music, and watching the weather channel.

WINTER INSTITUTE

Ideas and Innovation

The 55th Winter Institute is a two-day conference celebrating economic education. It offers high quality educational programming featuring nationally recognized speakers and stimulating ideas. The Winter Institute is unique in its ability to attract students, faculty, staff, community members, and business leaders. By bringing together this diverse audience, the event fosters idea creation and innovation. You can expect invaluable networking opportunities, concurrent sessions featuring practical issues of interest, and nationally recognized speakers.

When: Thursday, February 23rd and Friday, February 24th

Where: St. Cloud State University and 912 Regency Plaza, St. Cloud, MN

Keynote Speaker: Deirdre McCloskey

Distinguished Professor Emerita
of Economics, History, English,
and Communication
University of Illinois-Chicago

Keynote Topic: Liberal Ideas, Not Capital
or Institutions, Make Us Rich



Featured Speaker: Corey Tollefson

SVP and GM of Retail, Infor



Registration is required.

To see the full Schedule and to register, go to: www.stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute/

ALUMNI DISCOUNT 10% off with code: Alumni

If you would like more information or if you would like to get involved, please contact
Cindy Fitzthum or Lynn MacDonald at winterinstitute@stcloudstate.edu

ALUMNI

Yahya Pramanic, a Lecturer and Coordinator of International Affairs at Daffodil International University, kindly wrote to us this past fall, "It is with profound gratitude I inform you that I have graduated and received my MS diploma. My family and I are over the moon. However, this would not have been possible had it not been for the profound generosity of the faculty members with their time and efforts on my behalf and tireless staff who worked so hard to make this possible.



You have been with me since the Fall of 2005. For eleven years I have known the department to be my home away from home. And you have shown your faith in me over and over again. I intend to prove myself worthy of your generosity. Right now I am thousands of miles away and yet part of my heart will always reside in Stewart Hall. Thank you for teaching me to see the world critically and analytically.

Without exception, I have found every member of the faculty to be highly student-oriented and always ready to help. You are all an example to me as I make my way in life.

Some of my beloved professors are now emeritus (Dr. Larkin, Dr. Luksetich, Dr. Edwards) but they will always be my teachers as are the rest of the faculty. Dr. Rebeck made me interested

in becoming a professional economist and academician. I thoroughly enjoyed his and Dr. Banaian's mentoring during my undergraduate years.

Please accept my sincerest thanks for all you have done for me. You took a nervous, callow youth and turned him into a confident, successful scholar (even if I say so myself!)."

Yahya graduated with a BA in Economics in 2006 and his Master's in Applied Economics in 2016.

GRADUATES

Summer 2016

Ian Bernick*

Krista Bundy

Edlira Kostallari*

Colten LaChance

* indicates graduate student

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships offered to our major students include:

Economics Department Scholarship

Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics

Crumpton Farrell Finance and Economics Scholarship

Robert and Ronald Besonen Endowed Scholarship

And for Masters' students:

Michael D. White Economics Fellowship

For a listing of all scholarships and to apply, visit
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/huskiesscholarships/>

We love correspondence from our alumni!

Please keep in touch with us—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 (Winter Institute and student research)

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

FACULTY

Professor Rich MacDonald received a grant from the City of St. Cloud for a research study of the Municipal Athletic Complex.

Professor Monica García-Pérez presented at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington DC, last July. Her work on the impact of minimum wage on local labor demand and immigrant workers was covered live by CSPAN and can be accessed here: <https://www.c-span.org/person/?monicagarciaperez>.

Last year, **Professor Monica García-Pérez** was the principal investigator of a report on The Impact of BLEND Initiatives on Childhood Obesity in Central Minnesota, published by CentraCare Healthcare System and highlighted by the Robert Wood Foundation on its annual report on obesity and national trends. The report was very useful for capturing the trend of childhood obesity in a non-urban area of the country. For more details and access to the full report visit http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2016/rwjf401163.

In December 2016, **Professor David Switzer** was appointed to the Economic Development Commission of the city of Sartell, MN. He applied for the volunteer position on the EDC as a way to give back to the city in which he has lived since he first began teaching at SCSU in 2006. Serving a three-year term, he and his fellow EDC members advise the City Council on economic development issues.



MINNESOTA STATE

St. Cloud State University,
a member of Minnesota State

Dr. Mónica García-Pérez

Dr. N. Eric Hampton

Dr. Patricia Hughes (*chair*)

Dr. Eungmin Kang

Dr. Mana Komai

Dr. Ming Chien Lo (*on leave*)

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 with our alumni, faculty, & current students.

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St. Cloud State University is committed to legal affirmative action, equal opportunity, access and diversity of its campus community. (<http://scsu.mn/ONIKKT>)