

2019

Fall 2019 Economics Newsletter

Department of Economics

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Department of Economics

Fall 2019 Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome back to fall semester. I would especially like to thank Dr. Hampton for taking over while I was on sabbatical. He did a great job and really enjoyed being chair ;). My sabbatical provided an opportunity for me to travel and experience other cultures, including three weeks in Mexico (Zihuantanejo and Tulum) and five weeks in Portugal and Spain. I also spent three weeks in California, where I grew up, driving the entire coast from San Diego to Eugene, Oregon. I did enjoy the bulk of winter in Saint Cloud, shoveling snow and taking online classes.

This year we have two faculty on sabbatical: Lynn MacDonald (spring and fall semesters) and Masoud Moghaddam (spring semester). Richard MacDonald will spend the entire year abroad as the Academic Director of Alnwick Castle. We hope to have an opportunity for students to travel to the castle over spring break, so keep an eye out for updates. David Switzer has 75% reassignment as the University Assessment Director. While we are short staffed, we still manage to cover our full schedule of classes.

Check out the upcoming events in the Newsletter. While the Winter Institute is still being finalized, the theme this year is drifting towards climate change. We hope to see you this February. We also hope to increase our internship program in the school and depend heavily on networking and alumni connections.

Keep in touch and have a great fall,
Patricia

MEET THE PROFESSOR

Nimantha Manamperi started teaching at St Cloud State University in 2014. He is now an Associate Professor. He also works as the Director for the Data Analytics Graduate Certificate program. His research focuses on monetary policy, economic growth, time series econometrics and forecasting. Currently, he is conducting research on identifying the effectiveness of open book and close book exams on student learning. Nimantha enjoys teaching business and economic forecasting and helping students be successful! He loves to travel to tropical destinations like Sri Lanka and Maldives during vacation. Nimantha lives in Maple Grove with his wife Chathurada and two daughters Aakya and Aadya.



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KEY DATES

- **Tuesday, October 8:** Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank President Neel Kashkari will be speaking at St Cloud State. Save the Date! You can register for free here: <https://scsu.mn/2ZC84L8>.
- **Friday, October 25:** The Minnesota Economic Association (MEA) Conference will be held at Hamline University and will feature Hurwicz Lecturer Hilary Hoynes of the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California Berkeley.
- **EconFest:** Annual Minnesota Council on Economic Education Conference, TBD.
- **December 20:** St Cloud State University Fall Commencement!

NOTABLES

We are excited to have Perihan Hazel & Mustafa Kaya, along with their son Cetin Ege, here from Turkey. They are visiting scholars who will be working with economics faculty on research and other projects. They will be here until February 2020.

Mustafa has his doctorate in economics from Selcuk University in Konya, Turkey and worked as a research assistant there for three years. He currently works as a tax inspector with the Ministry of Treasury and Finance of Turkey. He has also been giving lectures on economy as a visiting scholar in Faculty of Business and Management Sciences at KTO Karatay University since 2016. He is a member of the Turkish Economic Association and Tax Inspector Association. He was the Tax Inspector Association Commission Chair for Academy and vice editor at Tax Report Journal. He has had several publications and has also written 13 books. His primary fields of study include macroeconomics, public finance, tax, and energy (especially renewable energy). He is here conducting research in collaboration with our faculty. He is being advised by Professor Patricia Hughes. He enjoys taking photos and has some of them exhibited by the jury in competitions he has participated in. He considers his most valuable things in life to be his wife and son.

Hazel has her doctorate in economics from Selcuk University in Konya, Turkey. She started working as a research assistant where she obtained her degree and has been working as an associate professor there since 2017. Her main field of study is economic history (especially Ottoman economic history). She has been studying behavioral economics for the past two years. She won a fellowship from The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. She is looking forward to the research here at St. Cloud State, making a very important contribution to her career. She is being advised by Professor Nimantha Manamperi. She enjoys discovering new places and traveling. She has been having the most beautiful and special moments in her life over the past year, because she became a mother and has the sweetest son. She loves spending time with him and being able to travel as a family.



ALUMNI

Katherine M. Sauer, Ph.D.

Vice President, Research and Programs

As senior director of education, research and strategic impact for the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE), Sauer's responsibilities include philanthropic, research, evaluation and technology engagement of the collegiate and adult consumer education initiatives of the foundation. Sauer brings over a decade of expert economic literacy experience from teaching, conducting and overseeing research, developing and implementing projects, and managing programs.

Prior to joining NEFE, Sauer was vice president at an investment consulting firm where she specialized in retirement plans. Before that, she served three years on a human resources leadership team with the University of Colorado System Administration Office where she worked on special projects in employee engagement and education. She has held faculty positions at the University of Southern Indiana and Metropolitan State University of Denver and was co-director of the Center for Economic Education at the later. Additionally, Sauer has consulted for the U.S. Department of Commerce and provided faculty development training at Eurasia University in Xi'an, China.

Formerly serving as a NEFE subject matter expert, Sauer brings consulting expertise in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, statistical analysis, data collection, survey design and administration, and writing technical reports and summary/executive reports. She has designed and delivered professional development programming for hundreds of K-12 teachers on topics related to economics and financial literacy with Economic Literacy Colorado, an affiliate of the Council for Economic Education.

Sauer earned her bachelors degree in economics from St Cloud State in 1999.



Sauer earned her doctorate in economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She also holds a certificate in change leadership from Cornell University. Sauer extensively speaks at events across the country and has been recognized for her scholarly contributions to the advancement of teaching and learning. Sauer is an alumna of the University of Colorado Excellence in Leadership Program and a former fellow of the TIAA Institute and the Center for Research on Consumer Financial Decision-Making. Her community engagement activities have included work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused and neglected children, an independent county election judge, and a volunteer yoga and meditation instructor.

Sauer is an avid yogi and has been a certified instructor since 2012, currently teaching yoga for athletic performance and recovery at a local martial arts studio. As well as being a certified nutritionist she enjoys cooking whole food, plant-based recipes. Sauer is also passionate about improving mental health in the workplace which led her to create a guided meditation app named FocusMinder. Showcasing her artistic side, Sauer outlets her creativity through painting basing her work on graphs from economic theory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you are looking to network with peers and talk about the passions of economics, consider being involved in the Economics Association here at St Cloud State! They also provide tutoring for ECON 205 & ECON 206 courses. Visit their website at stcloudstate.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/economics-association or email them at econs@stcloudstate.edu for more information.
- Welcome & Congratulations Adewale Adeagbo & David Murphy, our Graduate Assistants for Fall semester!

WINTER INSTITUTE

Plans for the 2020 Winter Institute are underway!

Look for more details and registration information as plans continue to develop at stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute

Curious what the Winter Institute is all about? Check out this video: <https://scsu.mn/30QRMi4>.

SUMMER 2019 GRADUATES

Lauryn Blain, BA Economics
Corey Schultz, BA Business Economics
Arati Bista, Graduate Certificate, Data Analytics
Courtney Frieler, Graduate Certificate, Data Analytics
Kevin Loonam, Graduate Certificate, Data Analytics
Corinne Pinlac, Graduate Certificate, Data Analytics

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Mónica García-Pérez published her article “Recent Immigrants and Public Charge: Access to Coverage and New Legal Arrivals’ Employment, Self-Employment, and Health Insurance After Medicaid Expansions and the Marketplace”. Read it here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0034644619857727>.

WE LOVE HEARING 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:

stcloudstate.edu/foundation/waystogive/

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Dr. Nimantha Manamperi
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Dr. Artatrana Ratha
Dr. Ken Rebeck
Dr. David Switzer



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St. Cloud State University,
a member of Minnesota State

St. Cloud State University is committed to
legal affirmative action, equal opportunity,
access and diversity of its campus
community.

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