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## Summer 2016 Economics Newsletter

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# Economics Newsletter

## FROM THE CHAIR

Congratulations to our 2016 graduates! We wish you the best as you embark on your new careers. Please keep us updated as to your future plans and accomplishments. It is always an inspiration to see our students succeed and share their strategies for success with current students.

King Banaian, Dean in the School of Public Affairs, has done an excellent job supporting our department during these trying budgetary times. We are trying to manage our scheduling to best meet the needs of our students; early registration for fall classes is strongly encouraged to allow us to offer the needed courses. Ming Lo is extending his leave of absence for an additional year to teach in the Economics Department at Metro State University. Although short staffed, we will strive to offer a robust course schedule to accommodate our students' needs.

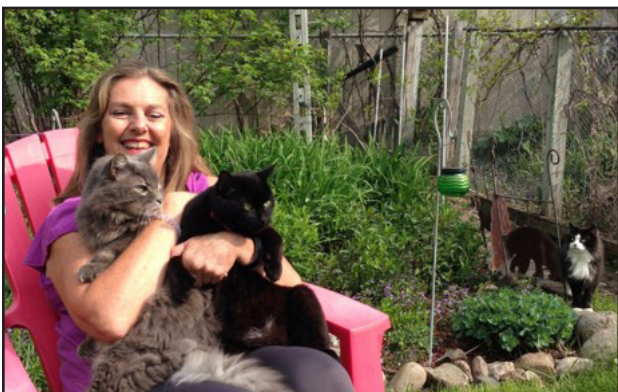
We are now offering a 5-course Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics. This is a joint effort between economics, statistics, and information systems. The program fits well with an undergraduate economics degree or paired with the Masters in Applied Economics. You can find more information on our web page and can contact me for application/registration instructions. In addition, we are working on an undergraduate minor in Business Analytics. This will be a joint venture with information systems, mathematics, statistics, business and economics. Hopefully this will go through fall curriculum and be available spring 2017.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 55th Annual Winter Institute on Thursday, February 23 and Friday, February 24, 2017. This year's event is being organized by Lynn MacDonald, with the theme of Ideas and Innovation. We hope to get a huge alumni turnout, and reconnect with those now out in the real world.

If you stop by this summer you will encounter substantial work being done on the exterior of Stewart Hall. While dusty and noisy, our office will be open.

Have a great summer,  
Patricia

## MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **Patricia Hughes** joined the Economics Department in 1988 and is now a full professor and chair of the economics department. Her research focuses on nonprofit economics and her teaching focuses on public finance and econometrics. Her two daughters are majoring in economics and math, with both attending SCSU in the fall. In her spare time she enjoys gardening (with her cats), swimming and visiting family; luckily her sisters live in California and Hawaii!

# WINTER INSTITUTE

Many people, including visiting Economics Association students from Moorhead (thanks for joining us!), enjoyed the 54th Winter Institute. Thank you to Professor Lynn MacDonal for her photos from the event.



# ALUMNI

**Kris Bertelsen**, a 2005 graduate, visited SCSU and presented with Dr. Ken Rebeck at our Winter Institute in February. Kris also presented in several of our education and economics classes providing an overview of the structure and functions of the Federal Reserve System. Kris is a Senior Economic Education Specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Little Rock Branch, which provides free educational resources to learn economics, personal finance, financial markets, and other topics. Thank you Kris for your support!



**Josh Limanen**, a 2009 graduate and Army veteran, is employed by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as a National Bank Examiner. Josh writes, "I started in June 2010 after graduating with a BA in Economics from SCSU. We manage the safety and soundness of the national banking system, ensuring that banks and thrifts are providing fair access to credit and are in compliance with laws and regulations. On a daily basis, we hold discussions with bank management, review bank policies and procedures, and review loans, financial information,

and the cybersecurity environment. It is a great job, there is always room to grow within the agency and I am always learning new things. We usually hire once or twice during the year and I would definitely recommend it if you have a degree in a business-related field or if you have banking experience. Go to [www.occ.gov](http://www.occ.gov) for more details." Josh visited SCSU in January for the SCSU Diversity Job & Internship Fair, representing the OCC in the recruitment of our students. He currently lives in Dassel with his wife and four children.



Josh is pictured above with Professor Lynn MacDonald.

## ALUMNI

**Zac Carter**, a 2016 Applied Economics graduate, has accepted employment with U.S. Bank as Credit Scoring Validations Analyst. Zac writes, “The Applied Economics program at St. Cloud State University helped greatly in preparing me for a career in quantitative analytics. Throughout the program, I’ve gained a variety of marketable skills including basic data analysis and manipulation, building predictive models, and working with a variety of statistical software packages. The hands-on experience not only helped solidify my knowledge of economic theory, but also gave me unique insight into what is going on “behind the scenes” with many economic concepts. After two years in the program, I received an



excellent job offer from the very first company I applied to. My job at U.S. Bank involves working with credit risk models, analyzing model performance over time, and writing quarterly reports based on our findings.” Zac defended his thesis in front of his committee, pictured left to right: Professor Dick Andzenge, Professor Mana Komai, Zac, Professor Lynn MacDonald.

**Paul Ryan** has been the President of the SCSU Student Economics Association from Fall 2013 to Spring 2016.



Paul is currently employed by School of Public Affairs Research Institute as a project assistant. As a project assistant with SOPARI, Paul worked on projects contracted to the institute that included, business filings for the state of Minnesota, a land use study for a local municipality, and an economic impact study for one of Minnesota’s preeminent healthcare providers. After graduation, he will work at US Bank as a Basel model validation analyst where he will use statistical techniques to ensure the soundness of US Bank. Paul graduated with a BA in Business Economics and a BS in Finance in 2014. This spring, Paul will graduate with a Master’s in Applied Economics and this summer with a Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics.

## GRADUATES

Fall 2015

Fuad Ahmed

Jasper Brenner

ZeYu Chen

Tyler Ehret

Emily Farniok

Aoun Haider

Brittany Healy

Zachary Hillesland

Alexander Kimball

Michelle Kuehn

Aaron Mason

Edgar Moloy

Chase Steinbring

Hangnile (Nathalie) Tiawara\*

Andrew Williams

Benjamin Zuniga

\* indicates graduate student

## DEAN'S LIST

Fall 2015

Jesse DesMarais

Jennifer Hughes

Sean Kerin

Joshua Pfohl

Taisiia Stanishevskia

Mengting Su

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.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to our students and **thank you** to our alumni, faculty, and friends whose support allowed us to award a total of \$2300 to the following students:

Rose Marie Gamber  
Scholarship in Economics  
Benjamin Ford

Economics Department Scholarship

Nikolay Diskant  
Kaitlyn Durham  
Samba Sacko

Michael D. White  
Economics Fellowship  
Shehram Khan

## STUDENT RESEARCH

### 2016 Student Research Colloquium

One student presented their research findings at the 19th Annual Student Research Colloquium.

Sponsor – Lynn MacDonald

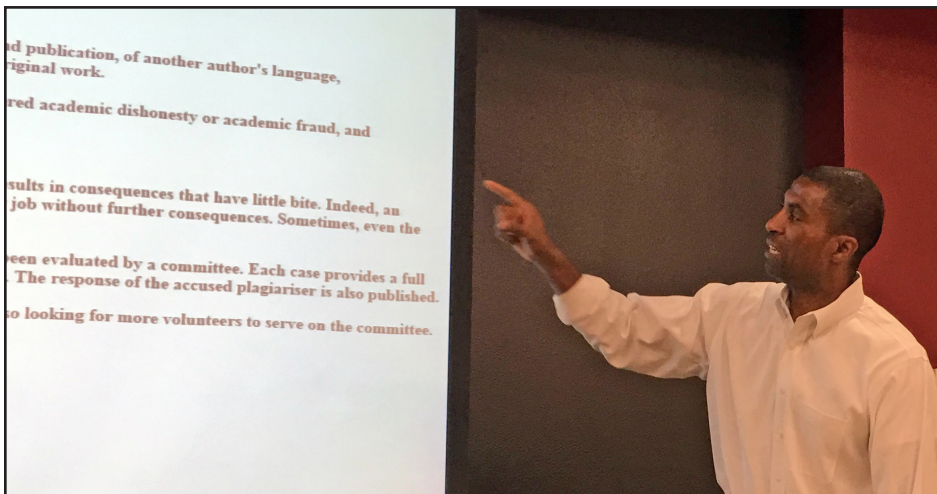
Zac Carter *Determinants of Police Expenditures*



# FACULTY

**Professor Nimantha Manamperi's** paper, "Does Military Expenditure Hinder Economic Growth: Evidence from Greece and Turkey", has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Policy Modeling*.

**Professor Gary A. Hoover**, visited SCSU in April, as part of our seminar series, to present his findings from over a decade of research on plagiarism in academic social science journals. His research was most notably published in the *Journal of Economic Literature*. Dr. Hoover has given over 100 lectures on plagiarism around the world. He has also been a visiting scholar at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin and guest professor at the University of Hannover, the University of Konstanz in Germany, and University of Vienna in Vienna, Austria. Professor Hoover is currently Chair of the Economics Department at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Hoover is pictured below.



## 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/>

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. 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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