



Economics Newsletter

February 2011

Central Connecticut State University

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Message from the Department Chair!
- Students that make us proud!
- Become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon!
- Economics Club
- Meet our Professors!
- Apply for Scholarships!
- Feedback from Alumni and students



Inside this issue:

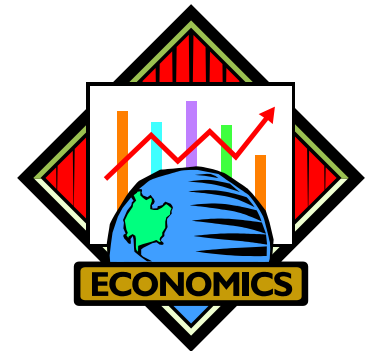
Accomplishments of Econ Students	2
ODE and Economics Club	3
Meet our Professors	4
Annual Report	5
Scholarships	5
Meet our Staff	6
Famous Economics Majors!	6
Best undergraduate degrees	7
Contact us!	8
Feedback from our Alumni and students	8

Message from the Department Chair

As the Spring-11 semester begins I think it is important to take a moment to reflect about the Economics Department; where we are as a department but even more important, where we are coming from. I joined the Department in the Fall of 2006. At that time, I was the junior member of the Department; we had approximately 12 majors and seven (7) permanent faculty members. Today, I am the senior member of the Department, we are approaching 70 majors, and we are only three (3) permanent faculty members. The Department, just like the global economy, is confronting a systemic shift! Nevertheless, I am confident that we will emerge as a stronger Department.

After many years of great service, our colleagues, Dr. Pae, Dr. Kim, Dr. Daigle and Dr. Loughlin retired at the end of Spring-09. In the Fall-09, the Department moved from the second floor to the fourth floor of Vance, Prof. Steve Cox (Criminology and Criminal Justice) became our Interim Chair, and we started the semester with only two (2) permanent faculty members. During the 2009–10 Academic year, we worked expeditiously on the new Mission, Vision, Constitution, and Promotion-Tenure Guidelines for the Department. We also conducted a tenure-track search. We started this academic year with a new foundation, a new colleague, another tenure-track search and a new sense of ownership. Our goal is not just to have a new Department but a better one. We are creating new courses (Economics of Religion, Gender and The Economy, Globalization, Latin American Economic Development), we have an active recruitment agenda not only for the major but also for the Economic Club and the Honor Society, and we are conducting another tenure-track search.

As we continue to evolve, we want to hear from you (current and former students). Please tell us about your experiences while here (good and bad), how to make the program better, and the things you are now doing in the ‘real world.’ As I mentioned, we are committed to develop a great Department but to do so, we need your input. Thus, stay in touch!



Carlos Liard–Muriente, Ph.D.

Students that make us proud!

Shauna Simeone

Recipient of the Brian O'Connell Scholarship

The "Brian M. O'Connell Scholarship," is awarded to an undergraduate student who best exemplifies the intellectual passion, curiosity, and accomplishment of O'Connell. Additional information about Brian O'Connell Scholarship can be found at:

<http://www.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=1398>

Shauna is planning to graduate a year early (3 years total) with a double major in Mathematics and Economics. Also, Shauna is in the CCSU honors program. Last year she completed her undergraduate thesis for the honors program on the viability of tax reform in the U.S. Additionally, she is a member of the Omicron Delta Epsilon Economic Honor Society. Shauna was the recipient of multiple academic scholarships since her time at CCSU and she has made it onto the Dean's list every semester.

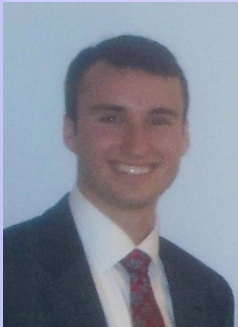


Michael Boratko

Recipient of Department Honors for Academic Year 2009/2010

Michael Boratko graduated in May 2010. He is the one who make us very proud! He received Economics Department Honors for Academic Year 2009/2010. Here is a speech of Dr. Briana Osoba about Michael for this ceremony:

"It is with great pleasure that I present this honor to Michael Boratko. Michael has taken three economics courses with me at CCSU. Among the nearly 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students whom I have taught at CCSU, in Texas, and in West Virginia, I believe that he is the best student I have had thus far. Michael has a genuine love of learning. He took two Calculus-based physics courses to serve as his general education science credits even though he could have taken less challenging courses. To satisfy his curiosity, he reads up on subjects both complementary to and also far removed from economics. Michael is very highly motivated and determined to succeed. He will complete a dual degree in economics and mathematics in just two academic years with a perfect grade point average. In the meantime, he has also found time to run his own small company and fulfill his commitments with the Army National Guard. Michael plans to pursue a Ph.D. in economics. I know that his love of learning and strong drive to succeed will allow him to be successful. The Economics Department looks forward, with pride and anticipation, to his future contributions to economic research."



The Epsilon Chapter of OMICRON DELTA EPSILON (ODE) at CCSU

Become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon!

ODE is an International Honor Society in Economics and founded in 1963 as a result of a merger between two honors societies, Omicron Delta Gamma and Omicron Chi Epsilon. It is the one of the largest honor societies and currently has 647 local chapters and 81,000 members.

The objectives of Omicron Delta Epsilon are recognition of scholastic attainment and the honoring of two outstanding achievements in economics; the establishment of closer ties between students and faculty in economics within colleges and universities; the publication of the official journal. The American Economist; the sponsoring of panels at professional meetings and the Irving Fisher and Frank W. Taussing competitions.

Undergraduate students who meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply:

- Completion of 12 semester of economics courses;
- Attainment of at least a “B” average in economics courses and an overall “B” average in all classes, and a class standing in the upper one-third;
- Students do not have to be economics majors, but must have a genuine interest in economics in addition to meeting the above requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Nara Mijid, Assistant Professor of Economics (Robert Vance Academics Center, Room 453), by email at mijidnar@ccsu.edu or by phone at (860) 832-2733.



New members of OED from left : David Bursey, Michael Boratko, Shauna Simeone, Samantha Hill, Maggie Albert and Dr. Mijid. May 14, 2010



Economics Club

The Economics Club at CCSU caters to all those with an interest in Economics, especially those pursuing (or considering) an Economics major. We hold forums and seminars with guest speakers who present their research and give insight to their particular area of expertise. We also serve as a resource to Economics students interested in internships and scholarships, and are the basis of a network of CCSU alumni in Economics.

During Fall'10 semester we had a pleasure to host Prof. Brian Osoba, who talked about gangs and their impact on violence.

On November 17 we had Dr. Mohammad Moeini Feizabadi presenting topic of his interest in “Distribution of Surplus and Growth”. This event was held in Student Center, Carleton Room 119 at 10:30 am.

Another guest speaker Dr. Nara Mijid will present “Gender and Credit Rationing of Small Business” in the Spring Semester 2011. DON'T MISS IT!

The Executive team of Economics Club:

- **Louis L. Gagnon—**
President;
l.gagnon@my.ccsu.edu
- **Brian J. Osoba, Ph.D.**
Faculty Advisor;
osobabry@ccsu.edu

Meet Our Professors!

Dr. Carlos Liard—Muriente, Chair, Associate Professor



Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente joined the Economics Department at Central Connecticut State University in August 2006. Currently he is the Chair of the Economics Department and the Associate Director of the Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Center at CCSU. Dr. Liard—Muriente is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Business and Economics Association. Prior to coming to CCSU, he was an Assistant Professor at Western New England College. He also taught courses as an Instructor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, CT. Dr. Liard-Muriente completed his Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and his undergraduate degree is from the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras.

He has been the recipient of several grants, scholarships and fellowships including the 1996 American Economic Association Summer Scholarship; the 2001 Dorothy D. Compton Fellowship, from the Institute for the Study of World Politics in Washington, D.C; the 2002 Political Economy Research Institute Dissertation Fellowship; and the 2007 ISEO Scholarship, from the Institute for Studies on Economics and Employment in Italy.

Dr. Brian Osoba, Associate Professor



Dr. Brian J. Osoba teaches courses in urban economics, labor economics, economic forecasting, and the economics of religion. His current research focuses on the effects of religion and culture on regional economic activity. Dr. Osoba and his co-author won the 2009 Georgescu-Roegen Prize for the best academic article published in the *Southern Economic Journal*.

Prior to arriving at Central Connecticut State University in 2007, Dr. Osoba was a faculty member in the Master of Public Administration Program at the University of Texas at El Paso. He earned his Ph. D. in economics from West Virginia University in 2004.

Dr. Nara Mijid, Assistant Professor



Dr. Nara Mijid has been an Assistant Professor at CCSU since August 2009. Currently, she is a faculty advisor to the CCSU's Chapter Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) International Honor Society in Economics. Prior to coming to CCSU, she taught at Colorado State University as an instructor and Front Range Community College in Colorado as an adjunct faculty.

Professor Mijid received her Ph.D. in Economics from Colorado State University in 2009. Her dissertation is on "Gender, Race, and Credit Rationing of Small Business". She is a recipient of dual masters' degrees in Economics and Finance from the University of Colorado at Denver in 2001. She also possesses nine years of working experience in commercial banking. She is a winner of the 2008 Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship Award. Her research and teaching focus is on small business financing, financial institutions, financial system, monetary policy and international finance.

Department Scholarship 2009-2010

Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente

Journal Articles: Liard-Muriente, Carlos. (with Michael Meeropol) 2009. "The Myth of Rubinomics," *Humanomics: The International Journal of Systems and Ethics*, 25:3, pp.204-216.

Books Reviews: Liard-Muriente, Carlos. *Economics* by Paul Samuelson and William Nordhaus (McGraw-Hill Irwin, 19th edition). (Also invited to update/rewrite the Instructor's Manual for the textbook.)

Presentations: "Tax Incentives, Educational Attainment and The Reserve Army of the (Skilled but) Unemployed: The Case of Puerto Rico," presented at the *13th World Congress of the Association for Social Economics*: Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, Concordia University. Montreal, Canada, June 30, 2009.

"Ideology and Identity: Conservatives, Liberals and Radicals in Intermediate Macroeconomics," presented at the *68th International Atlantic Economic Conference*: Boston, MA, October 10, 2009.

"A creative economy is the fuel of magnificence."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dr. Brian Osoba

Journal Articles: 2009. "Culture and Entrepreneurial Activity in the United States: A Quantitative Analysis," *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 303-332.

Osoba, Brian J. 2010. "Connecticut Curriculum" *forthcoming* in *Connecticut History*.

Presentations: "Regional Labor Force Participation: Is Religion a Contributing Factor?" presented at the *56th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI)*: San Francisco, CA, November 21, 2009.

"Regional Rates of Self Employment: Is Religion a Contributing Factor?" presented at the *13th Annual Connecticut State University System Faculty Research Conference*: Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, April 17, 2010.

Dr. Nara Mijid

Presentations: "Gender and Credit Rationing of Small Businesses," presented at the *June Baker Higgins Gender Studies Conference*: Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, May 8, 2010.

Scholarships for Economics Majors!

The following scholarships are administered by the CCSU Foundation, Inc., and are available to CCSU students only. Inquires should be made to scholarships@ccsu.edu. The applicants must be a matriculated student or accepted for admission as a matriculated student at CCSU. The application period is from November 1 through February 1.

Jerome Vigdor Memorial Fund is awarded to a graduating senior majoring in Economics who has been accepted for graduate study at an accredited college or university.

Anastasios Papathanasis Scholarship support students majoring in Economics with a minimum of 15 credits in Economics who have demonstrated interests in Economics by contributing to either University or/and community. Recipient of the scholarship must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00. The scholarship may be awarded more that once to the same recipient.



Meet Our Staff!

Geneva Deutsch, Secretary II



Geneva (aka "Neva") Deutsch came to CCSU in the Fall of 2006. She currently provides administrative support to the Computer Science Department, the MS CIT graduate program, and the Economics Department. Neva previously worked at UConn Health Center in the Information Technology Department, and has a combined total of 26 years of State service. She enjoys working with faculty and students at CCSU and especially likes the diverse environment at the University. In April, 2010, Neva was the recipient of the 2010 Performance Excellence Award for Support Staff in recognition of her commitment to the University and its mission. You can find Neva in the Economics Department Monday through Friday, 8:00–11:00 a.m. in Vance, Room 454. During the afternoon, she is located in the Computer Science Department in Sanford, Room 3030000.

Anna Pacanski, Graduate Assistant



Anna Pacanski earned her undergraduate degree, majoring in economics here at Central Connecticut State University in May of 2010. As a transfer student from Poland, she maintained a GPA above 3.8 for undergraduate coursework. She decided to continue her educational journey, so she applied, and was accepted to the Graduate School at CCSU. Anna is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Science with a major in Technology Management in Department of Technology and Engineering. She also holds the position of full-time Graduate Assistant in Department of Economics. She is planning to graduate in Fall of 2011 and start her corporate career. You can find Anna in the Economics Department office in Vance, Room 454.

Famous Economics Majors!

CCSU Alumni

Rick D'Aquila
Chris Loughlin, MD
Drew Loughlin
Jim McNeil
Brian Noe
John Pew
George Rafael

COO Yale-New Haven Hospital
Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist
Managing Director, JP Morgan Chase
Portfolio Manager, Sandelman Partners
Wealth Manager MW Financial Group
Investor & owner of John Pew Formula 1 Racing
Director of Regulatory Affairs Home Builders Association

Business Leaders

Steve Ballmer
Warren Buffett
William Harrison, Jr.
Scott McNealy
John Sweeny
Donald Trump
Ted Turner
Sam Walton
Meg Whitman

CEO, Microsoft (Harvard)
Financier (Columbia, M.A. Economics)
CEO, JP Morgan Chase (UNC-Chapel Hill)
CEO, Sun Microsystems (Harvard)
President, AFL-CIO (Iona College)
Real Estate (University of Pennsylvania-Wharton)
CNN, Atlanta Braves/Hawks (Brown)
Founder, Wal-Mart (University of Missouri)
CEO, Ebay Technologies (Princeton)

Athletes and Sports Figures

Jennifer Azzi
Bill Belichick
James Blake
John Elway
Mike Mussina
Lenny Wilkens
Tiger Woods

WNBA guard Utah Starzz (Stanford)
NFL Head Coach-Patriots (Wesleyan University)
Pro Tennis Player (Harvard)
NFL quarterback (Stanford)
MLB Pitcher (Stanford)
NBA Coach/Hall of Famer (Providence College)
Golfer (Stanford)

Musicians, Actors & Others

Scott Adams
Crandall Addington
Bob Barker
Cate Blanchett
William F. Buckley
Col. Eileen Collins
Millard Fuller
Danny Glover
Mick Jagger
Sadie Tanner Mossell
Paul Neman
Lionel Richie
Arnold Schwarzenegger
Karina Smirnoff
Ben Stein
Young M.C.
Mario Van Peebles

Cartoonist, creator of Dilbert (Hartwick College)
Professional poker player (Southwestern University)
TV Game Show host (Drury College)
Actress (Melbourne University)
Journalist (Yale)
NASA Shuttle Commander (Syracuse University)
Founder of Habitat for Humanity (Auburn University)
Actor (University of San Francisco)
Rolling Stones (London School of Economics)
First black woman to receive a Ph.D. in the U.S.
Actor (Kenyon College)
Singer/Songwriter (Tuskegee University)
Actor/Governor (University of Wisconsin)
Champion dancer; Dancing With the Stars (Fordham)
Actor/political speechwriter (Columbia University)
Singer (University of Southern California)
Actor/Director (Columbia)



<http://www.payscale.com/best-colleges/degrees.asp>



Major	Mid-Career Median Salary
<i>Economics</i>	\$ 97,800
Computer Science	\$ 97,700
Statistics	\$ 92,900
Finance	\$ 91,500
Management Information Systems	\$ 90,300
Mathematics	\$ 88,300
Computer Information Systems	\$ 83,100
International Relations	\$ 83,000
Political Science	\$ 81,700
Information Technology	\$ 79,300
Accounting	\$ 77,500
Marketing	\$ 77,300
International Business	\$ 73,700
History	\$ 73,000
Philosophy	\$ 72,900
Communications	\$ 72,200
Geography	\$ 71,200
Business	\$ 70,600
Nursing	\$ 68,200
Health Sciences	\$ 68,100
English	\$ 67,500
Journalism	\$ 66,600
Psychology	\$ 62,500
Sociology	\$ 62,100
Criminal Justice	\$ 58,000
Art History	\$ 57,100
Music	\$ 57,000
Graphic Design	\$ 56,800
Education	\$ 54,900
Social Work	\$ 44,900
Elementary Education	\$ 44,400

Popular Jobs for Economics Degree

<http://www.payscale.com/best-colleges/jobs-for-economics-degree.asp>



Job Title	Mid-Career Median Salary
Financial Advisor	\$116,000
Portfolio Manager	\$109,000
Business Process/Management Consultant	\$104,000
Security Trader	\$ 95,900
Financial Controller	\$ 86,100
Financial Consultant	\$ 83,500
Investment Banking Analyst	\$ 75,000
Marketing Manager	\$ 73,100
Investment Analyst	\$ 71,200
Finance/Banking Business Analyst	\$ 70,800
Economist	\$ 66,200
Financial Research Analyst	\$ 60,500
Real Estate Analyst	\$ 60,000
Data Analyst	\$ 57,200
Market Research Analyst	\$ 57,000
Financial Analyst	\$ 52,800
Pricing Analyst	\$ 50,200

Contact Us!
Economics Department

Robert Vance Academic
 Center 454

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 Fax: (860) 832-2730
 www.econ.ccsu.edu

Department Secretary:
 Geneva Deutsch
 Mon–Fri 8:00am–11:00am
 Email:
 deutschgem@mail.ccsu.edu

Graduate Assistant:
 Anna Pacanski



**Economics tutors:
 RVAC—Room 438**

Feedback from our Alumni and students:

- ◇ 70% are currently employed;
- ◇ 23% are currently attending graduate school;
- ◇ 100% of those attending graduate school are satisfied or very satisfied with the preparation they received at CCSU.

Indicate the extent to which each ability was greatly enhanced by CCSU education	CCSU Students	Economics Majors
Thinking logically and analytically	30%	54%
Acquiring new skills and knowledge on your own	35%	54%
Thinking critically	29%	38%
Using quantitative skills	19%	38%