



# Economics Newsletter

Spring 2018

Central Connecticut State University

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**Special Points of Interest**

- Message from the Department Chair
- Econ Club News
- Where are they now?
- Faculty News
- ODE

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## Message from the Chair

Happy new year from the Economics Department! In the following pages, you will find information about the Economics Club, news and updates about our faculty members, nominations for the Excellence in Teaching Award, conferences, open houses and events we attended. However, the most important update you will find are the testimonials from recent graduates. In a nutshell, our students are extremely satisfied with our program and are doing extremely well in terms of careers or graduate schools. I invite you to read each testimonial to familiarize yourself with what our best representatives in Connecticut and beyond said about our program. However, before turning the page, I want to leave you with the following table with information obtained from both the Registrar's Office and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. As you can see, some things have dramatically changed since 2006 when the most current senior member joined the Department. If you are a glass half full type of person like I am, this table and our student's testimonials show that the sky is the limit for the Economics Department! Please visit our webpage for the latest news about the Department or if you so kindly would like to donate: <http://www.ccsu.edu/economics>



*Carlos Liard-Muriente, Ph.D.*

## Comparison of Academic Years

	Spring 2006	Spring 2018
Number of Majors	14	100
Number of Minors	0	30
Degrees Awarded	5	26 (summer 17')
Number of Econ Sections Offered	24	28
Total Enrollment in Econ Sections	665	971
Capacity limit in Intro Courses	30	40
Capacity limit in Upper Level Courses	25	35
Full-time Faculty Members	8	7
Secretary	1 full-time	1 part-time

## Economics Club News



Dr. Samantha Schenck  
Econ Club Advisor



Sedina Begic, CCSU  
2017-2018 Senior Class  
President & Econ Club  
President.

The Econ Club has been busy this year. Dr. Samantha Schenck took over as club advisor in Fall of 2017 and Sedina Begic was elected club president.

The club held a resume writing workshop where students were welcomed to bring anything they had to be reviewed by Econ faculty for helpful hints and suggestions.



In November 2017, some members of the Econ Club attended the Southern Economics Association (SEA) Conference held in Florida.

There will be a graduate school workshop and another resume working held during the Spring 18' semester.

Sedina is working on a Facebook group for the Econ Club.

The club is trying to set up a tour of the Federal Reserve in New York in Spring 18' and Dr. Carolyne Soper is helping Dr. Schenck to get a speaker from the Boston Federal Reserve to facilitate a workshop for students at CCSU.



### ABOUT SEDINA BEGIC:

Sedina is a double major in economics and management. She is also the senior class president with three years on the Student Government Association. Sedina is currently a supervisor at Marshalls and HomeGoods.

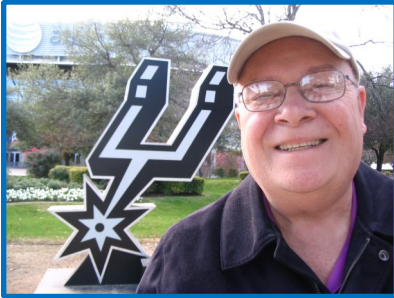
### BECOME AN ECON CLUB MEMBER!

If you are interested in becoming a club member or if you have any suggestions for the club, please contact the club advisor, Dr. Samantha Schenck, at M5 304, her e-mail, [sschenck@ccsu.edu](mailto:sschenck@ccsu.edu), or phone 860-832-2733.



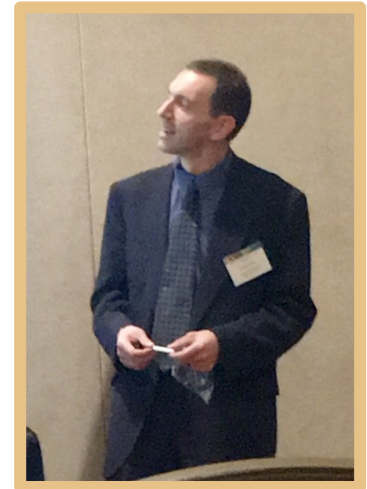
## Excellence in Teaching 2017-2018

The Economics Department is excited to announce that we had four of our faculty nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2017-2018! The Economics Department regularly has our faculty nominated for this award and we would like to acknowledge this years nominee's. Both Dr. Jared Ragusett and Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente have previously been selected for the honor roll.



**Mitch Charkiewicz** is a part-time lecturer with the Economics Department. Mitch used to teach here full time and stays on with us for evening principles courses.

**Dr. Brian Osoba** is an Associate Professor with the Economics Department and has been with us since 2007. Dr. Osoba teaches principles courses and also has interest in Labor Economics, Forecasting, and Urban and Regional Economics.



**Dr. Christina Robinson** is an Associate Professor with the Economics Department and has been with us since 2013. Dr. Robinson teaches principles courses and her interests are Health Economics, Labor Economics, and Welfare Economics.

**Dr. Samantha Schenck** is an Assistant Professor with the Economics Department and has been with us since 2016. It is quite an honor to be nominated so early in her career. Dr. Schenck teaches principles courses and her interests are Feminist Economics, Economic Development and Labor Economics.



## Conferences, Open Houses & Invitations



Admitted Students Day



Admitted Students Day



Open House Oct. 17'

Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente was invited to represent CCSU during the visit of the Ecuadorian Consulate.



The Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies, in collaboration with Latino and Puerto Rican Studies presented Puerto Rico: An Interdisciplinary Discussion about the Past and Future of this American Territory. Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente was among the five CCSU faculty invited to be a discussant.

Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente was a judge for the Best Undergraduate Paper competition at the International Atlantic Economics Society Conference held in Montreal, Canada in October 17'.



## Conferences, Open Houses & Invitations



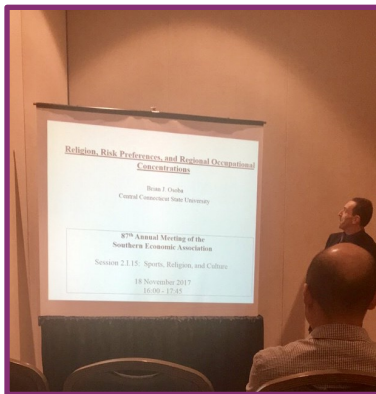
Dr. Liard-Muriente and Dr. Schenck present at the 2017 International Atlantic Economic Society in Montreal, Canada.



Dr. Robinson presenting during the 2017 International Atlantic Economics Society Conference held in Montreal, Canada.



Dr. Ragusett was invited to speak at the Legislative Office Building press conference about a report he wrote with Dr. Dhar and Dr. Liard-Muriente about Connecticut's economy and its tax structure.



Dr. Osoba presents at the 2017 Southern Economics Association held in Florida.

Dr. Schenck, Dr. Liard-Muriente, and Jenn at the welcome reception for the IAES in Canada with board member, Dr. Paul Hettler. Dr. Liard-Muriente was selected as the member of the month.



## Past Student Testimonials & Where Are They Now?

### ◆ Tyler Carbone, Class of 2017, IT Internal Auditor for Aetna

Tyler Carbone 17'

*Majoring in Economics at CCSU was one of the wisest decisions I made. The insightful disposition of my professors caused an intellectual shift for me. They were always willing to meet and lend a helping hand outside of the classroom. Most importantly, my economics degree prepared me for life after CCSU. I was more than prepared for my new role in Aetna's Financial Leadership Development Program and that's all thanks to the Econ Department of my Alma Mater.*

Shelby Dattilo 13'

### ◆ Shelby Dattilo, Class of 2013, UConn Law School

Elizabeth Della Penna 14'

*During my time with the CCSU Economics Department, the faculty fostered an engaging learning environment and consistently provided real-world context with which to understand the foundations of economics thinking. The department has a commitment to global understanding which inspired me to work in Seoul, South Korea as an English instructor after graduation and made me a successful contributing reporter at the 15th Annual World Knowledge Forum in Seoul. I now hope to attend law school next fall, and I am confident that my undergraduate education will help me better assess how legal decisions affect economic outcomes.*

Tashonne Rose 15'

Matthew Rubino 14'

John Szalan 15'

Alex Thim 16'

### ◆ Elizabeth Della Penna, Class of 2014, Account Exec. Carousel Ind.

Alex Tomczuk 17'

*My first semester I was in a required Macroeconomics course with Prof. Ragusett who was also new to the University. I had taken a course in High School but didn't really understand what it was or how it applied to my life and it's funny thinking back now because it applies to everything in life. I took six of Dr. Ragusett's courses overall and had at least one class with each of the professors in the department. The program gave me a lot of life skills that I apply to my everyday job as a Sales Executive of Technology. It's all about trends, power of the purchaser, and how the economy is negatively or positively impacted in the moment and long term. I evaluate these and many other economic thought processes to determine how I can go to market and create value for my customers.*

Samantha Yousef 15'

### ◆ Tashonne Rose, Class of 2015, Accts Payable Coord., The Bushnell

*The economics department felt more like home. I found myself in the department office frequently. There was always a door open willing to help me with my classes or help me figure out my post graduate life. I was actually able to make connections with my professors and that's not always easy to do. I can honestly say I haven't found a more committed group of people. Not only did I always feel like a valued student but I actually learned. I always learned something valuable in my econ courses and was able to comprehend the material. Hands down, the economics department is the best on campus!*

## Past Student Testimonials & Where Are They Now?

### ◆ Matthew Rubino, Class of 2014, Associate Analyst for LIMRA

*I remember my time with the CCSU Economics department as extremely valuable. The professors were knowledgeable and communicative, and truly cared about the successes of their students. Working in market analysis for LIMRA in Windsor, CT, I find myself turning back to my lessons on a daily basis. More importantly, I feel my experiences with the Economics department prepared me to continue to learn and think critically once I entered my career.*

### ◆ John Szalan, Class of 2015, UConn Law School

*The Economics Department at CCSU has opened doors for me that I never could have imagined. The economics program here does an incredible job straddling the quantitative aspects of economics along with the liberal arts aspects of economics. With the fantastic experience I had studying economics at CCSU, I am in my final year of law school pursuing my passion for law. During my tenure at law school I've worked for the City of Bridgeport Legal Department and the National Development Council in New York City. I couldn't have done any of this without the Economics Department at CCSU.*

### ◆ Alex Thim, Class of 2016, UMass Amherst Ph.D. Program

*The CCSU Economics program is like no other. The wide variety of viewpoints and approaches to economics provided me with a very rich economic background. With the first-rate education I received through this department I was able to get accepted to the top heterodox PhD program in the country, where I am currently pursuing research in Urban Economics and Political Economy.*

### ◆ Alex Tomczuk, Class of 2017, UConn MPP program

*CCSU's Economics Department provided me with a level of attention that cannot be found in other schools. All of the professors do everything in their power to help you succeed; whether it's through academic help or career advice. Jared, in particular, coached me through a thesis and life after graduating. Now, I find myself enrolled in UConn's Masters of Public Policy program, which is among the best in the country.*

### ◆ Samantha Yousef, Class of 2015, Supply Chain Specialist at Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense Co.

*I am thankful to have gone through the economics program. My economics degree has helped me stand out as a job candidate and I believe it is one of the most rewarding majors offered at CCSU. The concepts learned are very applicable, not only for my career, but everyday life. The course work offered in the program was challenging, yet very enjoyable. The economic professors are some of the best professors on campus. They helped me learn, not only for what was required in their classrooms, but for what would be needed in my future career. They were extremely supportive throughout my time on campus and it was a pleasure to learn from them. If you choose economics as your major, you will not be disappointed.*

## Economics Faculty News



Dr. Liard-Muriente is doing an independent study with two students who are part of CCSU's Airbridge program. This program was designed by President Toro and her staff to ensure that students are able to continue their education without interruption while the university & the island of Puerto Rico recovers from Hurricane Maria. These two students are so happy here that they plan to stay and continue their education at CCSU.

The Economics Department welcomes Dr.Carolyn Soper as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2017-2018 academic year. Macro, Money and Banking, Financial Markets/Institutions and Economic Activity, and International Economics are the interests of Dr. Soper.



Dr. Samantha Schenck was welcomed as the newest tenure track member of the department as of Fall 2017. Dr. Schenck had been with the Econ Dept. as a Visiting Assistant Professor since Fall of 2016. Dr. Schenck was also recently awarded a visiting scholar position at The Center for Employment Equity at UMass Amherst.



## Economics Faculty News

**Dr. Paramita Dhar, Dr. Jared Ragusett, and Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente** submitted a report in April 2017 on Connecticut's business tax advantages, economic strengths, and quality of life perceptions.

Their report was covered by local, regional, and national news outlets, including a Legislative Office Building press conference where Dr. Jared Ragusett presented the findings of the report.

The report challenges perceptions about Connecticut's business tax climate and the satisfaction of Connecticut's residents regarding where they live.

More specifically, the study finds that the state has the lowest ratio of business taxes per private sector worker in New England. Connecticut also has the lowest ratio of business taxes to state and local taxes combined in the U.S. After Maryland, the state has the nation's second lowest tax-benefit ratio, which is also the lowest ratio in the region.

This report was in collaboration with CCSU's Center for Public Policy and Social Research and was commissioned by the AFL-CIO.



Dr. Paramita Dhar



Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente



Dr. Jared Ragusett



## The Epsilon Chapter of OMICRON DELTA EPSILON (ODE) at CCSU Become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society!

### Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Christina  
Robinson



ODE is an International Honor Society in Economics that was founded in 1963 as a result of a merger between two honors societies, Omicron Delta Gamma and Omicron Chi Epsilon. It is 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 credit hours of economics courses;
- Attainment of at least a “B” average in economics courses, 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. Christina Robinson, Associate Professor of Economics (Maria Sanford Hall, Room 304), by email at: [ChristinaRobinson@ccsu.edu](mailto:ChristinaRobinson@ccsu.edu) or by phone at (860) 832-2727.

# Internship Initiative



The primary goal of the Economics Department Internship Initiative is to facilitate a mutually beneficial relationship for the CCSU economics major and the internship site. Interns are provided with an opportunity to enhance classroom learning through practical career related work experience, while contributing to the internship site's needs.

- Internship locations include corporate and private businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

## CCSU Mission

- Central Connecticut State University is a community of learners dedicated to teaching and scholarship that emphasizes development and application of knowledge and ideas through research and outreach activities, and prepares students to be thoughtful, responsible and successful citizens. As a comprehensive public university, we provide broad access to quality degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels.
- The Economics Department has a commitment to prepare students to be thoughtful, responsible, successful and involved citizens in a rapidly changing world.

## BENEFITS to the Internship Site

CCSU Interns provide numerous benefits and opportunities to the Internship site:

- **Future Employees:** Over the last several years, the majority of employers with internships (75.2%) indicated the primary focus was to recruit college graduates for full-time, entry-level positions.  
\*NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND EMPLOYERS 2017 Internship & Co-op Survey report
- **Increased Productivity/Enhanced Perspective:**  
Interns provide the internship site with the following skills: decision making/problem solving, information processing, planning/prioritizing, teamwork, innovative ideas, and verbal communication.

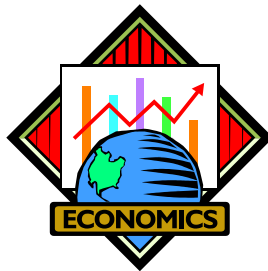
## Why a CCSU Economics Major?

Our students are equipped with critical thinking skills developed through advanced course work in the following areas:

- ◇ Applied Calculus
- ◇ Economic Forecasting
- ◇ Government and Business
- ◇ Labor Economics
- ◇ Mathematical Economics
- ◇ Statistics
- ◇ Urban and Regional Economics

## CCSU Economics Alumni are currently employed by:

- ◇ Amazon
- ◇ AmTrust Financial Services
- ◇ Century 21
- ◇ First Investors
- ◇ Guggenheim Museum in New York
- ◇ New England Mercantile Group
- ◇ New York Life Insurance Company
- ◇ Pratt and Whitney
- ◇ United Technologies



## Contact Us!

### Economics Department

Maria Sanford Hall  
Room 304

Phone: (860) 832-2725

Fax: (860) 832-2730

[www.econ.ccsu.edu](http://www.econ.ccsu.edu)

Administrative Assistant:  
Jennifer Mardin

Email:  
[jennifermardin@ccsu.edu](mailto:jennifermardin@ccsu.edu)



L-R: Samantha Schenck, Paramita Dhar, Carlos Liard-Muriente, Carolyne Soper, Jennifer Mardin, Jared Ragusett, and Christina Robinson.

Missing from photo: Brian Osoba