



# Economics Newsletter

Spring 2014

Central Connecticut State University

Volume 4, Issue 1

### Special Points of Interest

- **Message from the Department Chair!**
- **Econ News**
- **Student Research**
- **Become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon!**
- **Economics Club**



### Inside this issue:

ODE	2
Student Honors	2
Students In the News	3
Why Economics	4-5
Faculty Research	6-8
Faculty News	9-11
Economics Club	12

## Message from the Chair

We had a very productive 2013-14 academic year and 2014-15 should be even better. In terms of teaching, we continue to receive high marks from students and we continue to develop new and exciting courses. We are opening the Fall-14 semester with Econ 446: Gender and the Economy. In Spring-15, among other things, we will offer Economic Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Environmental Economics, Sports Economics, and State and Community Economic Development! We will also maintain our downtown presence offering Intro courses.

In terms of scholarship, we were responsible for 12 publications, 17 conference presentations, and 11 internal grants; not bad for a Department of only seven fulltime and two part-time members. We are preparing for the next round of publications and presentations. Among other places, we will be presenting our work at the International Atlantic Economic Society, the National Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education, the Northeast Business and Economics Association, and the Eastern Economic Association; while expanding our partnerships with ITBD and other state agencies.

Finally, the major continues to grow. The average number of students graduating from CCSU with an Economics degree from 2003-2009 was six but the average from 2010-2014 was 15. The number of Economics majors in Fall-09 was 40 but by Spring-14 we had 67 (and 20 incoming students for Fall-14!). Whether in politics, entrepreneurship or even The Wheel of Fortune, our students continue to do great in the real world. Now, an overwhelming majority of our current majors are interested in a graduate (MS) Applied Economics degree. Our students are the reason we are here. Thus, we will always strive to fulfil their academic needs and wishes, as well as prepare them for the careers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



Carlos Liard-Muriente, Ph.D.



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

### Become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society!

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. Nara Mijid, Assistant Professor of Economics (Maria Sanford Hall, Room 304), by email at: [mijidnar@ccsu.edu](mailto:mijidnar@ccsu.edu) or by phone at (860) 832-2733.

#### Faculty Advisor:

Nara Mijid, Ph.D.  
[mijidnar@ccsu.edu](mailto:mijidnar@ccsu.edu)



## Student Honors



Mary Burton, pictured with Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente, Economics Department Chair, received the CCSU Economics departmental awards at the 2014 Honors Convocation.

## Students in the News



### CCSU student set to announce senate bid

On February 26, 2014, Economics Major **Matthew Gaynor** was featured in the New Britain Herald. Matthew got his first taste of politics at the age of 13, helping the gubernatorial campaign of family friend James Amann.

While Amann was a Democrat, Gaynor got involved with the Republican Party in his hometown of Milford at 15.

"I loved Milford's mayor," Gaynor said of Jim Richetelli Jr. "I volunteered and got more and more involved with the Republican Town Committee."

Gaynor, who will officially announce his candidacy for the 14th District seat in the state Senate, started to become familiar with specific issues at 17. For him, the primary issue statewide is the economy, which he says the Democratic Party has been a failure at improving.

The full article is posted on the Economics Department website at <http://www.econ.ccsu.edu/>.



### CCSU grad turns hobby into money-maker

CCSU Economics student **Konrad Korzeniowski** was featured in an article in the New Britain Herald on 5/27/14.

Konrad has turned a hobby into a money-making business.

The 30-year-old New Britain resident graduated from Central Connecticut State University on May 17 with a B.S. in Economics. Now he's developing a business he started. In 2006, he conceptualized Bankernews LLC. By 2013, he had developed a business model and implementation strategy. He started at Tunxis Community College, then transferred to Central and is now an incubator company at CCSU's Institute of Technology and Business Development.

To read the full article, please visit the Economics Department website at <http://www.econ.ccsu.edu/>.



### Wheel of Fortune dream come true for CCSU Alum

Economics alumni **Brian Mothersele** of Berlin appeared on the long-running game show "Wheel of Fortune" on Friday, May 2.

Mothersele, 28, has been a fan of the show since he was 3 years old.

"It was that spinning wheel," Mothersele said. "I watched it every night with my mom. I never missed a show. I'm a die-hard." Mothersele is the son of Nancy and Charles Mothersele, and has two siblings, Katie and Justin. He is currently working to start his own distribution business.

He and his mother traveled to Culver City, Calif., for the taping. He competed during "Wheel 6000 Week," a week-long celebration of the 6,000th episode of the show, which has been in syndication since 1983.

To read the full article as published in the Hartford Courant, please visit the Economics Department Website at <http://www.econ.ccsu.edu/>.

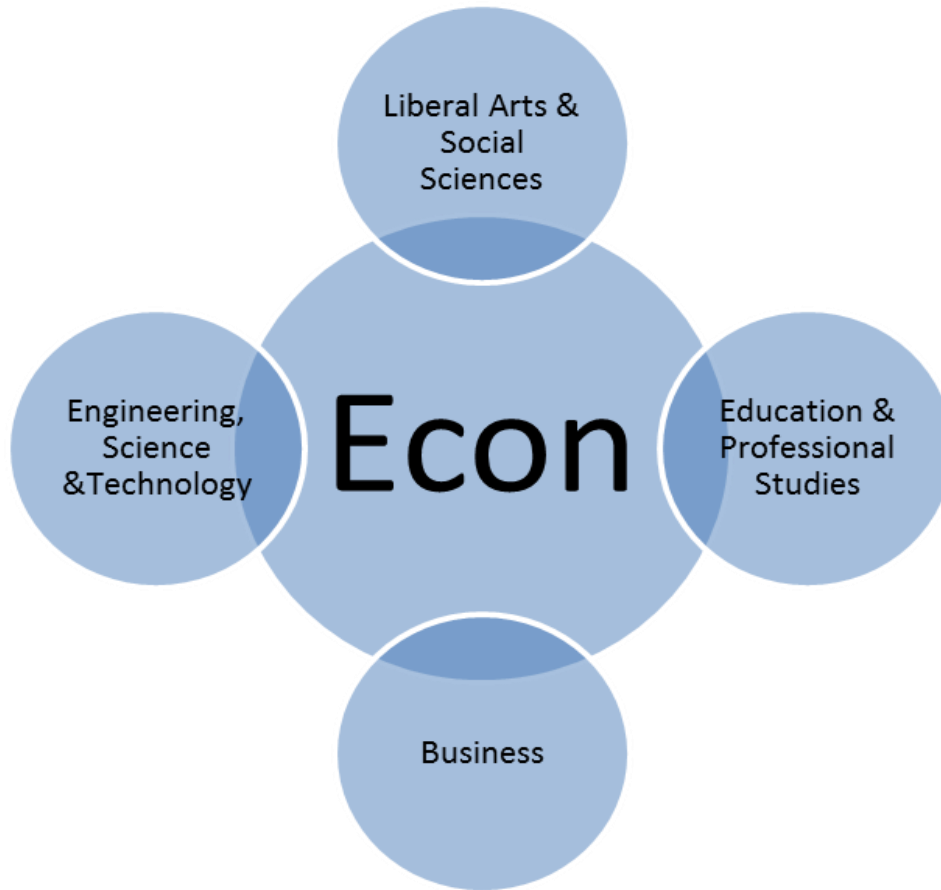
## Why Economics?

We tend to get the same two questions from parents and students: What is Economics? What can I do (job) with a degree in Economics? Intro to Econ textbooks will explain that Economics is about the allocation of limited resources while facing unlimited wants (choices and incentives). Although correct, we need to do more to clarify the uncertainties that CCSU students and parents have about Economics as a major. When describing Economics, it might be better to think about the four schools we have at CCSU: Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LASS); Business (BUS); Engineering, Science and Technology (EST); and Education and Professional Studies (EPS). Each school has a distinctive feature that brings the departments within them together. We could argue that the distinctive feature of LASS is **Critical Thinking** (reflective and independent thinking to solve problems). Bus brings **Technical Thinking** (problem-solving process). EST is more distinctive for **Quantitative Thinking** (using the tools of Math to solve problems). Finally, EPS employs more **Analytical Thinking** (using information to test solutions to problems). It should be clear that solving problems is at the heart of all four schools. This is very important (and a point of pride for all of us at CCSU) because the careers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will belong to problem solvers! However, just like you would expect an accountant, an engineer, a teacher and psychologist to follow different approaches when confronting a problem, the four schools follow different approaches.

What about **Economics**? Think for a moment about your Econ courses. Economics is all about Critical Thinking and that is why we are a proud member of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. What about Technical Skills? You just have to remember the elasticity formulas in Microeconomics or the multiplier formulas in Macroeconomics. What about Quantitative Skills? Here, you just have to remember the math from Intermediate Macroeconomics and Intermediate Microeconomics, and the statistics from Econometrics, Forecasting and Quantitative Methods in Economics. Math and Stats are in our DNA and that is why we are the only department from LASS assisting the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) with the quantitative component of the new CCSU assessment protocol. Furthermore, when the OECD decided to implement a feasibility study for the Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes to see if it was *practically and scientifically feasible to assess what students in higher education know and can do upon graduation*, the study only included two disciplines: Engineering and Economics! ([www.oecd.org/edu/skills-beyond-school/AHELO%20Brochure.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/edu/skills-beyond-school/AHELO%20Brochure.pdf)).

Finally, what about Analytical Skills? Just remember Political Economy; it was all about testing the validity of different theories to arrive at sound policy solutions. In other words, we are probably the only department at CCSU that integrate the skills from all four schools without any complications. Not surprisingly, students from all schools are required to take Econ courses.

## Why Economics?



However, what can I do (job) with a degree in Economics? Given that we integrate all four skills, our graduates have many options to choose from when it comes to defining their career paths. Many are familiar with the names of some of our graduates from years past like Richard D'Aquila (President and COO at Yale-New Haven Hospital), Drew Loughlin (Managing Director of Interest Rate Swaps Trading at JP Morgan), Jim McNeil (Partner/Portfolio Manager at Eagle River Asset Management), John Pew (Investor, owner of John Pew Formula 1 Racing, and winner of the 2012 24-Hours of Daytona), and Dr. Shaienne T. Osterreich (Associate Professor of Economics at Ithaca College). This is an impressive list of diverse career backgrounds, all with Economics from CCSU as the fundamental starting point. This diversity of careers is an instrumental feature of our Department, and it continues to be present in recent graduates. In addition to graduate school, entrepreneurs and politicians, some of our most recent graduate career paths include: Business Analysts at New England Mercantile Group; Institutional Development Associate at the Guggenheim Museum in New York; Senior Accountant at AmTrust Financial Services; Associate Account Executive at Travelers; Real Estate Agent at Century 21; Senior Administrative Support at Pratt and Whitney; Insurance Agent at New York Life Insurance Company; Market Analyst at Travelers; Financial Services Representative at First Investors; Auditor-International Trade Compliance at J.M. Rodgers, and Regional Bank Private Banker at Wells Fargo.

**What can I do (job) with a degree in Economics? The sky is the limit!**

## Faculty Research

### Publications



Robinson, C. and Coomer, N. (2014). *Children's Public Health Insurance and Scholastic Success*. *Applied Economics Letters*, 21(7): 459-462.

Robinson, C. and Coomer, N. (2013). *Children's Public Health Insurance and Maternal Absenteeism*. *Journal of Economics*, 39 (2):1-16.

Robinson, C. (Forthcoming). *Sibling Rivalry and the Health Benefits of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*. *The Forum for Family and Consumer Issues*, 19(1): <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/pub/ltc.html>

Robinson, C. (Forthcoming). *Family Structure and the Benefits of Participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*. *Eastern Economic Journal*.



Ragusett, J. (2013). *Is Urban Sprawl Good for Minorities?* *Housing Policy Debate*, 24 (2): 335 – 363.

Ragusett, J. (Forthcoming) *Foreclosure*. In F.F. Wherry & G.J. Geoffrey (Eds.), *The encyclopedia of economics and society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Ragusett, J. (Forthcoming). *Redlining*. In F.F. Wherry & G.J. Geoffrey (Eds.), *The encyclopedia of economics and society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Blake, G. and Gibbison, G. (Forthcoming). *Why do Poor Households not Apply for Welfare Benefits: Evidence from Jamaica's PATH program*. *Journal of Developing Areas*.



Blake, G. (2014). *America's Deadly Export: Evidence from Cross-Country Panel Data of Deportation and Homicide Rates*. *International Review of Law and Economics* 37(1): 156-168.

Liard-Muriente, C. (2014). *The Impact of the Great Recession on Latinos*. In *The New Faces of American Poverty: A Reference Guide to the Great Recession*, pp. 265-274. ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, CA.

Liard-Muriente, C. and Burton, Mary E. (2014). *Food Security and the Great Recession*. In *The New Faces of American Poverty: A Reference Guide to the Great Recession*, pp. 404-416. ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, CA.

## Faculty Research

### Publications (Continued)

Liard-Muriente, C. (2014). *Puerto Rico's Migration and Development Dilemma*. The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social and Community Studies 7(4):57-66.

### Conference Presentations

Robinson, C. "Children's Behavior and Participation in Public Assistance Programs," Presented at the Eastern Economic Association's Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 2014.

Robinson, C. "Playground Facilities and Childhood Obesity," Presented at the Eastern Economic Association's Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 2014.

Robinson, C. "Family Structure and the Benefits of Participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)," Presented at the Family Economic and Resource Management Association's Biennial Conference, Savannah, Georgia, January 2014.

Robinson, C. "Teaching with Case Studies: An Application from Health Care Economics," Presented at the International Atlantic Economic Society's Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2013.



Dhar, P. "Flipped Classroom class," Annual Faculty Day, CCSU, April 2014.

Dhar, P. "Recreational Facilities and Childhood Obesity," presented at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, Boston, March 2014.

Dhar, P. "Role of Neighborhood in Housing Discrimination," presented at Economic Aspects of Public Policy, Kolkata, India, January 2014.

Dhar, P. "Role of Neighborhood in Housing Discrimination," presented at the 39th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, New York, May 2013.



Mijid, N. "Gender and Type 1 Credit Rationing of Small Businesses in the US," presented at the June Baker Higgins Women's Studies Conference-CCSU, February 2014.

Mijid, N. "Gender and Type 1 Credit Rationing of Small Businesses in the US," presented at the International Multidisciplinary Academic Conference, Miami, FL, March 2014.

Raguset, J. "Black residential segregation in the era of urban sprawl," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, Boston, MA, March 2014.



Blake, G. "Using Increases in Criminal Deportees from the US to Estimate the Effect of Crime on Economic Development in Latin America and the Caribbean," Southwestern Social Science Association Conference, San Antonio, TX, April 2014.

## Faculty Research

### Conference Presentations (Continued)

Liard-Muriente, C. "Writing in Economics: An Intro to Micro Experiment using Write Experience," presented at the 76<sup>th</sup> International Atlantic Economic Conference, Philadelphia, PA. October 2013.

Liard-Muriente, C. "The Great Recession and Latin America," presented at the International Journal of Arts & Sciences Conference, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada. May, 2013.

Liard-Muriente, C. "Tax Incentives and Small Businesses: The Case of Puerto Rico," presented at the Pennsylvania Economic Association Conference, Edinboro University Edinboro, PA, May 2014.

Liard-Muriente, C. "Promoting Small Business in a Small-Open Economy: The Case of Puerto Rico," presented at the American-Canadian Conference for Academic Disciplines, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, May 2014.

Osoba, B. "Culture and Regional Risk: An Application to Entrepreneurial Activity," presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2013.



### Faculty Spotlight: Andria Fraser

Andria Fraser began teaching in the CCSU Economics Department in 2011, prior to that she taught for three years at ECSU. She has a Master's in Resource Economics from the University of New Hampshire where she discovered how great teaching can be during her time as a Teaching Assistant. She has also taught economics at Mitchell College, in New London and at UConn, in Storrs. Andria still does some research and is currently co-authoring a book chapter on community planning's role in building social capital.





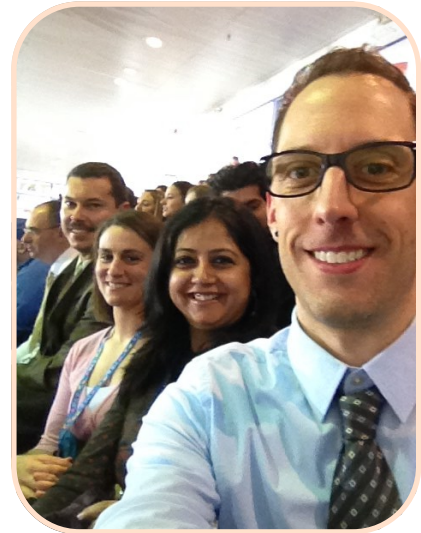
## Faculty



Dr. Christina Robinson and Dr. Jared Ragusett represented the Economics Department at the 2014 Commencement Exercises held at the XL Center in Hartford.

Economics Faculty “Selfie” taken while attending President Barack Obama’s speech on March 5, 2014 at CCSU regarding Minimum Wage.

Pictured are: Dr. Jared Ragusett, Dr. Paramita Dhar, Dr. Christina Robinson, and Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente.



Meet the newest member of the Economics Department family!

Congratulations to Dr. Paramita Dhar on the birth of her son, Aadit (which means ‘Peak’). He was born on June 29.

Welcome to the world Aadit!



## Economics in Downtown New Britain (Teaching)



As a request from Dean Susan Pease, following President Miller's initiative to increase CCSU presence in downtown New Britain, the Department expanded its offerings of introductory courses to downtown. For Fall-14, Andria Fraser will again teach Econ 200: Principles Macroeconomics and Econ 201 Principles of Microeconomics, and the Economics Department will be the only academic department offering services at the Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD)

building in downtown New Britain.

This location is convenient for commuters, right off Route 9 with an attached parking garage, free for students and plenty of parking. Her courses are one day a week in the evening, also making it easier for non-traditional students.

This initiative has been a tremendous success for the Department, and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

---

## Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in Fall 2014

We are excited about the changes taking place in Fall 2014. The Sciences will now be located in the new School of Engineering, Science and Technology. The migration of the Science departments will allow our school to focus on Liber Arts and Social Sciences, the pillar of higher education.



Changes will also take place in Economics. Starting in Fall 2014, Dr. Christina Robinson will be the Assistant Chair of the Department. Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente will remain as Department Chair but also an Assistant to the Dean of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.



## Economics in Downtown New Britain (Research)



The Department's relationship with ITBD is not limited to teaching. Dr. Mijid developed two surveys (Management and Operations) to assess the business/industry economic impact of ITBD's services on the local business community, as well as its community engagement.

The targets for the Management survey were CEOs, VPs, managers and directors, while the Operations survey targeted engineers, technicians, consultants, administrations, and personnel handling day-to-day operations and involved in job training/workforce development activities. Dr. Mijid was responsible for the deployment of more than 3,500 surveys. Preliminary results show a very positive impact of ITBD on the local business community, with many survey participants willing to take part in follow-up focus groups voluntarily.

Dr. Mijid's partnership with ITBD has been so successful that the Program Director for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) requested a similar partnership. Dr. Mijid is now assessing needs and barriers issues that relate to a federally funded program launched in 2005 between ConnDOT and ITBD serving more than 65% of the population of DBEs. For this endeavor, Dr. Mijid also developed two surveys; one targeting DBEs and the other targeting Prime contractors. Dr. Mijid was responsible for the distribution of more than 500 surveys. Dr. Mijid is expected to have preliminary results by the end of July.

---

## Economics Professor Interviewed about Rock Cats Move

Early in the summer of 2014 news broke that the New Britain Rock Cats were considering a move from their current home in New Britain, CT to a new stadium in Hartford, CT. This potential move brought with it a variety of economic issues ranging from the viability of the move for the team to the labor markets in each of the two cities to the economic impact on nearby residents and businesses.

On June 24, 2014 Dr. Robinson had the opportunity to speak with members of The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN) Media Lab about the potential pros and cons associated with the Rock Cats proposed move.



## CCSU Economics Club



Faculty Advisor:

Christina Robinson, Ph.D.

ChristinaRobinson@ccsu.edu

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.



CCSU Economics Department:  
Now On Facebook & Twitter!



Facebook.com/ccsuecon

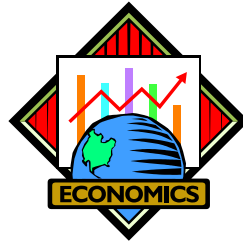


Twitter.com/ccsuecon

"Like" and Follow us for:

- Department news and announcements
- Internship/Job postings
- Current events
- Networking

For all students with interest in economics.



### 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:  
Neva Deutsch

Email:  
[deutschgem@mail.ccsu.edu](mailto:deutschgem@mail.ccsu.edu)



Economics tutors:  
RVAC—Room 438