



ECONOMICS NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of EMU Department of Economics,

In Fall 2009, we welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Mehmet Yaya. Dr. Yaya comes to EMU after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Alabama in August 2009. His areas of teaching include International Trade and Labor Economics. As we gained one faculty member, we lost one faculty member. Dr. Don Pearson retired after 41 years of dedicated service to the department. In recognition of his tenure, EMU's Board of Regents confirmed upon Dr. Pearson the status of Professor Emeritus of Economics, and also chose Dr. Pearson to lead the University Faculty as the Faculty Marshal and carrier of the Mace during Winter Commencement. Also, Dr. Jennifer Rice was promoted to Associate Professor.



The faculty continue to pursue research agendas and publish in highly regarded journals, such as *Applied Economics*, *Journal of Sports Economics*, *International Journal of Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Marketing*, *Social Science Journal*, *Defence and Peace Economics*, and *Review of Black Political Economy*. Dr. Yaya was awarded the New Faculty Provost Award in Fall 2009 and Dr. Rice received the Spring-Summer Faculty Research Fellowship in Spring 2009, and Dr. Thornton received a full year sabbatical for 2010-11.

We are pleased to announce that many of our recent undergraduate and graduate students have received excellent placements upon graduation. Students are currently working for various organizations within Michigan, such as PPA's Education, Workforce, and Economic Development Group, CAR's Labor and Industry Group, Ernst and Young, and Auto Owners Insurance, as well as positions around the United States. Several students are pursuing Ph.D.s in Economics at various top tier universities and students have received internships with Ford Motor Company, Thomson Reuters, and Polk.

The Department has relocated to the third floor, west wing, in King Hall. The move was completed at the end of the Winter semester. We will return to a renovated Pray-Harrold in January-June, 2012. All telephone and e-mail contacts are the same as before.

As a final note, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the alumni and friends who have provided financial gifts to the Economics department through the EMU Foundation. Such gifts aid in supporting the Department's missions.

-- Raouf Hanna, Department Head

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FACULTY NEWS:



Dr. Jennifer Rice was promoted to Associate Professor in June 2009.



Dr. Mehmet E. Yaya joined the Department of Economics in Fall 2009 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Alabama. Dr. Yaya teaches graduate courses in International Trade and Labor Economics and undergraduate courses in Labor Economics and Microeconomics.

Dr. Don Pearson received the status of Emeritus Professor of Economics In December 2009. Dr. Pearson retired at the end of Fall 2009 after 41 years of service in the Department of Economics at Eastern Michigan University. Thank you, Dr. Pearson, for your long-term commitment and dedication to the Department of Economics.



Professor of Emeritus Don Pearson was given the honor to lead his colleagues during the Winter 2010 Commencement. Professor Pearson carried the University mace, a symbol of authority of the President and the Board of Regents. The mace represents the golden flame of learning and is carried by the grand marshal, who is chosen on the basis of service to the university.

Dr. Kemper Moreland and Dr. David Crary were recognized this year for 30 years of service at EMU. Mrs. Rhonda Napier, our senior secretary was recognized for her 15 years of service at EMU.

Dr. James Thornton received a full year sabbatical leave for 2010-2011. He will be spending his leave working on research entitled "Economics of the Wine Industry."

The Department of Economics was well represented at the 2010 Midwest Economics Association Meetings Evanston, Illinois in March 2010. Drs. Crary, Erenburg, Rice, and Yaya along with 5 of students attended the meetings. Dr. Crary and Dr. Yaya presented their research entitled "Structural Change in the Impact of Oil Prices" and "Persistence of Institutions, Openness to Trade and Economic Growth: New Evidence".



FACULTY RESEARCH:

Dr. Bill Woodland recently published his joint research “The Reverse Favorite-Longshot Bias in the National Hockey League: Do Bettors Still Score on Longshots?” forthcoming in *Journal of Sports Economics*.

Dr. James Thornton recently published his research "Does More Medical Care Improve Population Health: New Evidence for an Old Controversy," forthcoming in *Applied Economics*.

Dr. Jennifer Rice recently published her research: “Are HMO Physicians More Price Sensitive in Prescribing Brand-Name Drugs?” in *International Journal of Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Marketing*; “The Influence of Managed Care on Generic Prescribing Rates: An Analysis of HMO Physicians” in *Applied Economics*; and joint research, “Increasing Daily Water Intake and Fluid Adherence for Children Participating in a Group Behavioral Intervention for the Treatment of Retentive Encopresis” forthcoming in *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*.

Dr. Mehmet E. Yaya recently published his research: “Terrorism and Tourism: The Case of Turkey” in *Defence and Peace Economics*; “Racial and Ethnic Differences in Income Inequality across U.S. Regions” in *Review of Black Political Economy*; and “Gender Differences in Income Inequality among Immigrant Populations to the United States” in *Social Science Journal*.

Dr. Mehmet E. Yaya was invited to present his research at Auburn University, Grand Valley State University, and Western Michigan University. He also presented at the 2010 Midwest Economics Association Meetings in Evanston, Illinois.

Dr. David Crary recently presented his research at the 2010 Midwest Economics Association Meetings in Evanston, Illinois.

Instructor Amy Ramirez-Gay recently presented her research regarding homelessness and affordable housing in Washtenaw County to the Washtenaw County Office of Community Development and executive directors of local non-profit agencies.

STUDENT / ALUMNI NEWS:



Tyler Kitchel '08 (M.A. Applied Economics) recently accepted a position as an economist with the South Coast Air Quality Management District in Los Angeles.. While at EMU, he received the Hanna Award for his Master's Project entitled, "A Vector Error Correction Model for Real Output with Fiscal and Monetary Policy Measures".



Mark Birmingham '09 (B.A. and M.A. Health Economics) was a guest speaker at the ECON CLUB Meeting. Mark currently works for CAR's Labor and Industry Group, and specializes in labor and management dynamics, wage trends, and forecasting automotive labor demand and supply.

Xiaoxia (Lena) Lu '10 (M.A. Trade and Development) presented her research "Balance of Trade and Effective Exchange Rate in China" at the 12th Annual Graduate Research Fair on March 22th.



Under the supervision of Dr. Kemper Moreland, Patrick Thomas Davis presented his research "A City of Ypsilanti Job Training Program: A Cost-Benefit Analysis" at the 2010 Undergraduate Symposium.

Under the supervision of Dr. Crary, The Fed Challenge Team competed at the annual Fed Challenge at the Chicago Federal Reserve. The Fed Challenge requires a team of 3 to 5 students to provide a 20 minute presentation on the current economic situation, the outlook for future economic activity, and recommendation for monetary policy.



STUDENT / ALUMNI NEWS:

J. Darin Jensen '09 (M.A. Economics) is currently in the Ph.D. program in Economics at the University of Illinois—Chicago..

Aizhan Meirambayeva '09 (M.A. Health Economics) is currently in the Ph.D. program in Health Economics at Wayne State University.

Paul Burkander '09 (B.A. Economics and Math) is currently in the Ph.D. program in Economics at Michigan State University.

Norkeith Smith '09 (M.A. Economics) is serving in an internship with Ford Motor Company and will enter the Ph.D. program in Finance in Fall 2010 at Wayne State University.

Hubert Miller, III '08 (M.A. Applied Economics) is currently in the Ph.D. program at Western Michigan University.

Shammima Jasmin '03 (M.A. Economics) recently received her Ph.D. in Health Economics from Wayne State University.

John Nganga '08 (M.A. Health Economics) is currently in the Ph.D. in Health Economics at the University of Iowa.

Monica Long '08 (B.A. and M.A. Applied Economics) is a Research Associate for PPA's Education, Workforce, and Economic Development Group in Lansing, Michigan.

Antoni Wroblewski (M.A. Applied Economics '11) is currently serving an internship with Ford Motor Company.

John Voorheis '09 (B.A. Economics) is currently in the M.A. program in Economics at Eastern Michigan University.

Christopher Hart '09 (B.A. Economics) is currently in the M.A. program in Economics at Eastern Michigan University.

**Students and Alumni: Please send any updates regarding your professional status to:
jennifer.rice@emich.edu or myaya@emich.edu.

EVENTS

Department of Economics celebrated student achievements at the Annual Awards Reception on April 7, 2010. Mr. Jason Blanchard '09 (B.A. Actuarial Science and Economics, Mathematics) was the guest speaker. He is currently an actuary for Auto Owners Insurance in East Lansing.



Student Achievement Award Winners

Gockerman Award (Outstanding Paper in Economics):

Patrick Davis

Murg Award (Outstanding Service to the Department):

Christopher Hart

Hanna Award (Superior Paper using Quantitative Methods):

John J. Smith



Graduate Student with highest GPA:

Xiaoxia (Lena) Lu

Undergraduate Major with highest GPA:

Andrew Okla and **Brendan Donahue**



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fall 2009 – Winter 2010 Bachelor of Art in Economics Graduates

Bellefleur, John	Hart, Christopher	Maxwell, Kyle	Tackett, Elizabeth
Brent, David	Howell, Amanda	McDonald, James	Voorheis, John
Clare, Jeffrey	Hylko Jr, David	McPhail, Charles	Williams, John
Cross, Alesha	Keffler, Matthew	Moser, Amy	Yang, Di
Culbert, Jonathan	La Chance, Steven	Nyakairu, Vincent	
Deng, RongRong	Larente, Bradley	Ralston, Keith	
Ford, Jonathan	Long, Angela	Sajnani, Haresh	
Haffner, Jennifer	Marrin, Laurence	Sheaffer, Liliya	

Fall 2009 – Winter 2010 Master of Art in Economics Graduates

Aldeghrer, Goban	Huang, Zhe	Owiti, Syprose	Wilson, Michael
Chakraborti, Gouri	Jenneman, Michael	Pryplesh, Michael	
Chortrojphol, Thanawich	Keita, Youssouf	Roy, Rashmi	
Dickerson, Justin	Lu, Xiaoxia	Shahin, Moustafa	
Hensley, James	Novakova, Daniela	Smith, John	

Spring-Summer 2010 Course Offerings:

Undergraduate Courses:

ECON100: Intro to Econ Problems & Policies
 ECON103: Economics of Living
 ECON201: Principles of Macroeconomics
 ECON202: Principles of Microeconomics
 ECON301: Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
 ECON302: Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis
 ECON375: Economic History of the US
 ECON436: Health Economics
 ECON480: International Economics

Graduate Courses:

ECON500: Foundations of Economic Analysis
 ECON501: Macroeconomic Theory & Policy
 ECON502: Microeconomic Theory & Policy
 ECON520: Analytic Labor Economics
 ECON561: Economics of Multinational Enterprises

Editors: Dr. Jennifer Rice and Dr. Mehmet E.Yaya

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Address Service Requested

Join us on the Web!

Department of Economics invites alumni to join our group on the online networking sites Facebook and LinkedIn. Visit www.facebook.com or www.linkedin.com and search for "Eastern Michigan University Department of Economics".

We hope to see you there!



Please consider donating to one of our Scholarship Funds!
For more information, visit EMU Foundation (www.emufoundation.org)
to learn how to contribute to our scholarship funds.

Our designation codes are:

Bruce Gockerman Economics Scholarship: 00253

Gary Murg Economics Scholarship: 00439

Department of Economics: 00186