

Greetings from the Department Head

Greetings! Please enjoy our annual newsletter!

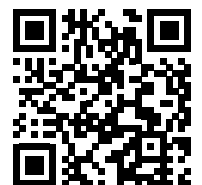
The Economics Department has experienced many changes over the past couple years. First, the Department welcomed a new assistant professor, Dr. Amanda Stype. Dr. Stype received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University and will begin her appointment in fall 2017. Second, after three years at EMU, Professor Younoh Kim resigned from EMU to take a position at Sam Houston State University. Third, we hired two highly qualified part-time lecturers: Lance Vought (J.D. from University of Toledo) and Dr. Tom Taylor (Ph.D. from University of Iowa and Health Economist at Altarum). Lastly, the Department expanded its course offerings to include Economics of the Environment (ECON 336), Time-Series Analysis (ECON 416), and Advanced Labor Economics (ECON 421).



The faculty continue to maintain a highly productive research agenda. In the past year, seventeen papers have been accepted for publication in highly regarded journals. Two of these papers were co-authored with our own graduate students. In addition, to promote the Department and the University, our faculty have been active in presenting their research at conferences and at other colleges and universities. Finally, congratulations to Professor Mehmet Yaya for being awarded the Summer Research Award for summer 2017 and Professor Abdullah Dewan for being awarded a sabbatical for winter 2018.

We are excited for our graduates and their many accomplishments throughout the last two years. Some of our graduates decided to continue their education at the Ph.D. level at places including University of Oregon (Thomas Stockwell), while others took jobs at places like Allstate Insurance (Kathryn Kembitzky) and BlueCross Blueshield (Kaitlin Daida and John Diorio). Congratulations to all those graduates. We wish them the best in all their future endeavors!

On behalf of the Economics Department, I want to thank those who have provided financial gifts to the Economics Department through the EMU Foundation. These gifts greatly contribute to the Department's mission. If you would like to contribute, please follow the link on the last page of this newsletter, also available [HERE](#). Also, we welcome your comments and suggestions on ways to improve the alumni experience.



Faculty News

Dr. Amanda Stype will be joining the Department this fall. Dr. Stype received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Prior to joining EMU, Dr. Stype was a Visiting Professor of Economics at Oakland University and Miami University. Her research interests are in the fields of public economics, aging, health economics, defense economics, and applied microeconomics. Her paper “Seeking Permission: The Effect of Changing the Opt Out Procedure for the Military Survivor Benefit Plan” was recently published in the *National Tax Journal*. For more information about Dr. Stype’s research and teaching, consult her website: <https://amandastype.com/>



Dr. Abdullah Dewan was awarded a sabbatical for winter 2018.

Dr. James Thornton was awarded the Faculty of the Year Award for academic years 2016 & 2017. He was interviewed by a freelance science journalist, Eleanor Cummins, to discuss the effect of health insurance on health outcomes (September 2016). He also had an email correspondence with Wine Enthusiast editor, Leslie Gevirtz, to respond to questions about the effect on the wine industry of the possible acquisition of Whole Foods by Albertsons (April 25, 2016).

Dr. Mehmet Yaya received a Summer Research Award for Summer 2017.

Publications

Below is a list of faculty publications from 2016-2017.

ARTICLES

Crary, David (with Yichum Xie, et.al.), “Modeling Grassland Ecosystem Responses to Coupled Climate and Socioeconomic Influences from Multispatial and Temporal Scales,” *Journal of Environmental Informatics*, forthcoming.

Elias, Christopher, “Asset Pricing with Expectation Shocks,” *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, 2016, 65, pp. 68-82.

Elias, Christopher, “A Heterogeneous Agent Exchange Rate Model with Speculators and Non-Speculators,” *Journal of Macroeconomics*, 2016, 49, pp. 203-223.

Saunoris, James (with Aziz Berdiev), “Financial Development and the Shadow Economy: A Panel VAR Analysis,” *Economic Modelling*, 57, 2016, pp. 197-207.

Saunoris, James (with Rajeev Goel), “Dynamics of Knowledge Spillovers from Patents to

Entrepreneurship: Evidence Across Entrepreneurship Types,” *Contemporary Economic Policy*, forthcoming.

Saunoris, James (with Rajeev Goel), “Political Uncertainty and International Corruption,” *Applied Economics Letters*, forthcoming.

Saunoris, James (with Rajeev Goel), “The Nexus of White Collar Crimes: Shadow Economy, Corruption, and Uninsured Motorists,” *Applied Economics*, 49, 2017, pp. 3032-3044.

Saunoris, James (with Rajeev Goel), “Institutional Path Dependence and International Research Intensity,” *Economic Modelling*, 52, Part B, 2016, pp. 851-858.

Saunoris, James (with Rajeev Goel), “Military Buildups, Economic Development, and Corruption,” *The Manchester School*, 2016, 84(6), pp. 697-810.

Saunoris, James (with Rajeev Goel), “Virtual Versus Physical Government Decentralization: Effects on Corruption and the Shadow Economy,” *Public Budgeting & Finance*, 2016, 36(4), pp. 68-93.

Saunoris, James (with Rajeev Goel & James Payne), “Spillovers from the Beer Market to U.S. Cigarette Demand,” *Economic Modelling*, 55, 2016, pp. 292-297.

Saunoris, James (with Darshak Patel), “Using the FRED Excel-Based Application to Improve Learning Outcomes in Economic Courses: From Student to Practitioner,” *Journal of Economics and Finance Education*, forthcoming.

Saunoris, James (with Aishath Sajny*), “Entrepreneurship and Economic Freedom: Cross-Country Evidence from Formal and Informal Sectors,” *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 2017, 29(3-4), pp. 292-316.

Thornton, James (with Svetlana Beilfuss*), “Pathways and Hidden Benefits of Healthcare Spending Growth in the U.S.,” *Atlantic Economic Journal*, forthcoming.

Yaya, Mehmet (with Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes), “The Impact of the ACA’s Extension of Coverage to Dependents on Young Adults’ Access to Care and Prescription Drugs,” *Southern Economic Journal*, 2016, 83(1), pp. 25-44.

Yaya, Mehmet (with Mehmet Balcilar and Ali M. Kutan), “Financial Integration in Small Islands: The Case of Cyprus,” *International Review of Economics and Finance*, forthcoming.

Yaya, Mehmet (with Ali M. Kutan), “Armed Conflict and Financial and Economic Risk: Evidence from Colombia,” *Risk Management*, 2016, 18(2-3), pp. 159-87.

* Svetlana Beilfuss and Aishath Sajny are former graduate students.

BOOK CHAPTER

Yaya, Mehmet, "Poverty by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in the U.S.," in Robert Rycroft (Ed.), *The American Middle Class: An Economic Encyclopedia of Progress and Poverty*, Greenwood/ABC-CLIO Publishers, 2016 (forthcoming).

In-Person Events

CONFERENCES

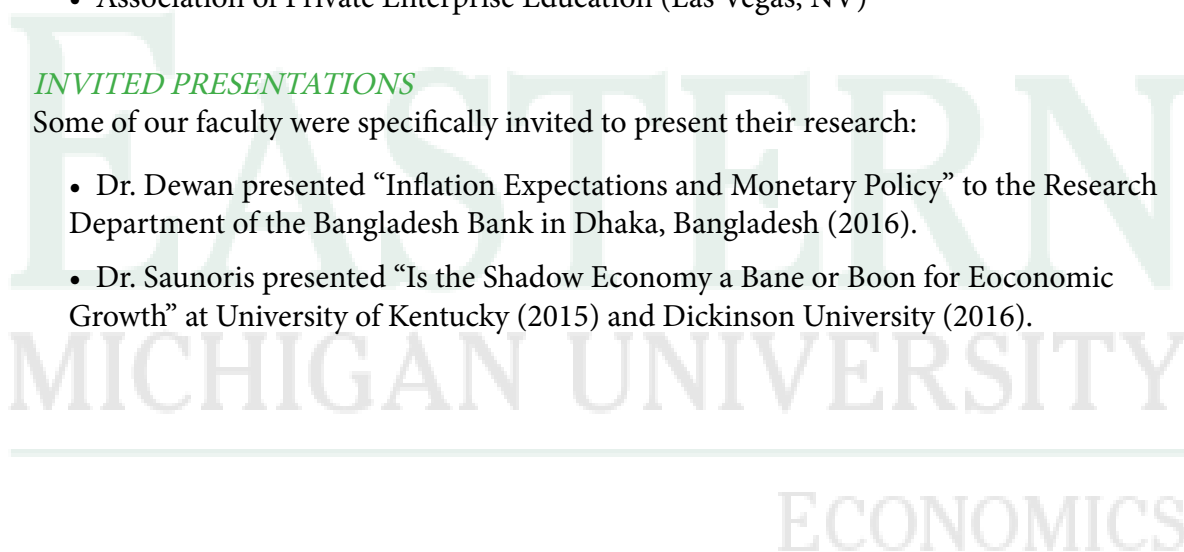
Many of our faculty have represented the Department at various professional conferences including:

- Southern Economic Association (Washington, D.C.)
- Association of Private Enterprise Education (Las Vegas, NV)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Some of our faculty were specifically invited to present their research:

- Dr. Dewan presented "Inflation Expectations and Monetary Policy" to the Research Department of the Bangladesh Bank in Dhaka, Bangladesh (2016).
- Dr. Saunoris presented "Is the Shadow Economy a Bane or Boon for Economic Growth" at University of Kentucky (2015) and Dickinson University (2016).



Student News

We are very proud of our students!

Omicron Delta Epsilon

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) is the national honor society for economics.

Our *2016 inductees* were:

Benjamin Bentley, Meghan Cwiok, Shawn Davies, Tiara Ginyard, Jacquille Jn Marie, Danielle Mathiensen, Steven Munn, Brian Parthum, Samantha Sheets, and Erkereoma Uwahweh.



Our *2017 inductees* are:

Fatoumata Z. Fofana, Dylan Jarosz, Donovan Kaddis, Dakotah Kilbourne, Atang A. Mahlo-maholo, Javier Smith, and Rebecca Throckmorton.

Student Scholarly Activity

Graduate student **Jacob Rich** presented his paper, “The Impact of Seclusion on Suicide,” at a seminar at George Mason University, April 22, 2017.

Undergraduate Symposium

2015-2016:

“The FOMA and Monetary Policy”

Presenters: **Paul Johann Loescher, Shawn Davies, Anthony Wozniak and Jeffrey Ketz**

Faculty Mentor: David Crary

“Emancipation and Wage Increase for the Freed Negro”

Presenter: **Sarah Straub**

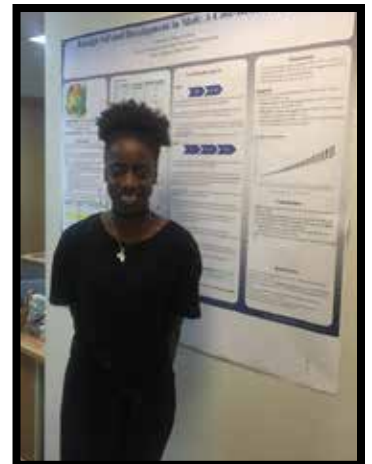
Faculty Mentor: David Crary

2016-2017

“Foreign Aid and Development in Mali: A Cost-Benefit Analysis”

Presenter: **Fatoumata Zahara Forfana**

Faculty Mentor: James Saunoris



Annual Celebration of Student Achievement

Each year, the Department recognizes a select number of students for outstanding achievements. On behalf of the Department I want to congratulate those students who were the recipients of awards.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

1. On April 14, 2016, the keynote speaker was Scott Formella (MA in Applied Economics). He is currently working as an Analytics and Consulting Manager at Truven Health Analytics.
2. On April 13, 2017 the keynote speaker was Danielle Tuttle (BS in Actuarial Science and Economics). She is currently working as a Senior Pricing Analyst at GM Financial.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Bruce C. Gockerman Award: **Yiqing Wu** (2016), **Danielle Mathiesen** (2017)

The Gockerman Award recognizes an economics major who submitted a superior paper on a subject related to economics. Established in 1977 by alumnus Bruce C. Gockerman.

Gary E. Murg Award: **Katy Kembitzky** (2016)

The Murg Award recognizes an economics major who has an outstanding record of service to the Economics Department. Established in 1977 by alumnus Gary E. Murg.

Hanna Award: **Danielle Mathiesen** (2016)

The Hanna Award recognizes an economics student who submitted a paper demonstrating the effective use of quantitative methods in economics analysis. Established in 1980 by Professor Emeritus Raouf Hanna in memory of his father.

Donald W. Pearson Award: **Joshua Young** (2016), **Nicole Robinson** (2017)

The Pearson Award recognizes an economics major or minor with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 with preference given to an Honors Program participant and/or a student with international study experience. Established in 2012 by Professor Emeritus Donald Pearson.

Highest Graduate Student G.P.A.: **Brian Napier** and **Cherryl Zekeng** (2016),
Shawn Davies (2017)

Highest Undergraduate Student G.P.A.: **Timothy Ewen** and **Hongyi She** (2016),
Spencer Jennings (2017)

Faculty of the Year: **James Thornton** (2016 & 2017)

Lecturer of the Year: **Carol Hogan** (2016 & 2017)

Fall 2015 Graduates

BACHELORS

Chow, Lisa - Mathematics / Economics (double major)
D'Hondt, Christopher - Economics
Deng, Congcong - Economics
Doyle, Garrett - Political Science / Economics (double major)
Dye Robb, Shakyra - Economics
Feng, Zhun - Economics
Gorine, John - Economics BBA
Hamilton-Reed, Herbert - Economics BBA
Savka, Klarika - Actuarial Science & Economics
Shaffer, Donovan - Economics
Wu, Yiqing - Economics
Zhang, Yerui - Economics

Economics minors for Fall 2015: Joseph Ezeoke, Elizabeth Herrick, Katherine Kapas, Jeffrey Ketz, Hanna Pritchard, and Jesse Yaeger

MASTERS

Khudair, Raid - Economics
Leonard, Anna - Economics
Liu, Chi-Mei - Health Economics
Peng, Jiangnan - Economics
Sajny, Aishath - Economics
Zhou, Erling - Trade & Development

Winter 2016 Graduates

BACHELORS

Cui, Longhui - Economics
Davies, Shawn - Mathematics / Economics (double major)
Falkenberg, Carl - Economics BBA
Haywood, Nicholas - Marketing / Economics BBA (double major)
Jia, Qian - Economics
Kembitzky, Kathryn - Mathematics / Economics (double major)
Neitzke, Jessica - Marketing / Economics BBA (double major)
Norton, Megan - Economics
O'Brien, Maggie - Economics BBA
Pierce, Benjamin - Economics
Stroup, Michael - Political Science / Economics (double major)
Wittig, Timothy - Language & Int'l Careers / Economics (double major)
Wozniak, Anthony - Mathematics / Economics (double major)

Economics minors for Winter 2016: John Diorio and Joseph Leary

MASTERS

DiSalvo, Michael - Health Economics

Fan, Lu - Economics
Ke, Junwu - Trade & Development
Li, Jian - Economics
McCullers, Brittney - Economics
Stockwell, Thomas - Applied Economics
Williams, John - Economics

Summer 2016 Graduates

BACHELORS

Bogges, Kelly - Economics
Cluckey, Raymond - Economics
Daida, Kaitlin - Literature and Writing / Mathematics and Stats / Economics (triple major)
Grandstaff, Amanda - Economics BBA / Finance (double major)
Lafferty, Ryan - Economics BBA
Laswell, Edwin - Economics
Leblanc, Gannon - Economics
Majgaonkar, Tannia - Economics
Maresh, Colin - Economics
Napier, Lamar - Mathematics / Economics (double major)
She, Hongyi - Economics
Wu, Sunxuan - Economics

Economics minors for Summer 2016: Dylan Crompton, Jacob Keehn, and Jonathan Schrag

MASTERS

Afghan, Nisar Ahmed - Applied Economics
AlHssaie, Fahad Yousif - Economics

Fall 2016 Graduates

BACHELORS

Billau, Abigail - Economics
Chen, Weitong - Economics
Chen, Xue - Economics
Franke, Joshua - Economics
Gonzales, Cipriana - Economics
Horning, Paul - Economics
Li, Shantong - Economics
Marshall, Andrea - Economics / Political Science (double major)
Wu, Huijun - Economics
Xu, Jinjia - Economics
Zhang, Man - Economics
Zhou, Xingye - Economics

Economics minors for Fall 2016: Santiago Castillo

MASTERS

Hilton, Joshua - Economics

Winter 2017 Graduates

BACHELORS

- Bormann, Tyler** - Economics
- Burton, Jacob** - Economics
- Cwiok, Meghan** - Economics
- Dunnigan, Shannon** - Economics
- Ewen, Timothy** - Economics BBA
- Gray, Austin** - Actuarial Science & Economics
- Knoerl, Jacob** - Economics
- Mecum, Mandy** - Economics / Geography (double major)
- Rich, Kara** - Mathematics / Economics (double major)
- Sheets, Samantha** - Economics
- Udegbumam, Dorothy** - Economics
- Yi, Ming** - Economics

Economics minors for Winter 2017: Samuel Delaplane, Gerald Djajaputra, Raquel Gonzalez, Nicholas McDonald, Brianne Meske, Steven Munn, Christopher Sharp, Rebecca Throckmorton, and Ethan Trudeau.

MASTERS

- Kaddis, Donovan** - Economics
- Kane, Jessica** - Applied Economics
- Ketz, Jeffrey** - Economics
- Murray, Patrick** - Applied Economics
- Parthum, Brian** - Applied Economics
- Phan, Anh Hien** - Economics
- Suciu, Remus** - Applied Economics
- Wu, Yiqing** - Economics
- Ye, Tingting** - Economics
- Zohrob, George** - Health Economics

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Alumni Updates

Lance Fortney (BS in political science and economics, 2013) is now entering his final year of law school at William & Mary. He had the pleasure of interning in the Chief Counsel's Office of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency this past summer in Washington, D.C. where he worked on various topics impacting national and international banks. He will be taking this experience to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's legal division, where he will intern.

Meghan Brown (now Meghan Frye) (BS in economics, 2011) is now a Revenue Audit Manager for FireKeepers Casino hotel in Battle Creek.

Jake Smith (BBA in economics, 2008 and MA in applied economics, 2010) is now a Senior Private Wealth Associate for The Lee Group, a division of the Private Banking & Investment Group, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated.

John Voorheis (BS in economics, 2009 and MA in economics, 2011) is now a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Oregon. He'll be going on the job market this year. During his time at Oregon, he received multiple department awards, including the Underwood Award for best performance on first-year qualifying exams, and the PhD Research paper award for the best third year field paper. He recently received a young scholars grant from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth for his research (joint with Nolan McCarty and Boris Shor) on the effect of state-level income inequality on political polarization within state legislatures. He has presented his research at the Winter School for Inequality and Social Welfare in Canazei, Italy and the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists annual meeting in San Diego. He is scheduled to present at the upcoming American Political Science Association annual meetings and the Southern Economic Association annual meetings as well.

Nino Monea (BS in public law and government and economics, 2014 and law degree from Harvard Law School) - After graduating from EMU, Nino served as Student Body President at Harvard Law School and held a placement at the Boston United States Attorney's Office in the Economic Crimes Unit. The position was an excellent blend of law and his economics background. He recently published an academic article "State Sanctioned Fraud" in the Business & Bankruptcy Law Journal, coauthored with James L. Tatum III (a fellow EMU alum). Nino currently works as a Law Clerk for the Michigan Supreme Court.

Xin Xin (MA in economics, 2013) - After obtaining an MA in Econ from EMU, she pursued a MS in biostatistics at the University of Michigan. Now she is working as a Research Analyst-2 at the Arbor Research Collaborative for Health in Ann Arbor.

Mark Johnson (BS in actuarial science and economics, 1995) is an Internal Software, Training and Processes Team Leader for (GRS) Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company in

Southfield, MI. GRS provides actuarial valuation and consulting services to governmental pension and health plans. Students may be interested in the occasional entry level job openings / internships that can be found on <http://www.grsconsulting.com/>.

Cody Mitchell (BS in actuarial science and economics, 2012) obtained his Associate of the Society of Actuaries designation in 2013, and earned his Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries in 2016. He worked as an Associate Actuary at Scottish Re (U.S.) in Charlotte, NC, and recently was promoted to Assistant Vice President, Valuation Manager.

Trevis Harrold (BA in political science and economics, 2015 and MA in public policy from the University of Michigan) completed several high profile internships: with the Department of State at the U.S. embassy in Kosovo and at the Office of Bilateral Trade; with the Michigan House of Representatives; with the U.S. House of Representatives; and with Senator Debbie Stabenow. He earned his Master's degree, Public Policy from the University of Michigan's Ford School while being a Woodrow Wilson Thomas-Pickering Fellow with the Department of State. Trevis is currently working as an Incoming Foreign Service Officer for the Department of State.

LeAndre Anthony (BS in public administration/minor in economics, 1996) was employed by Ford Motor Company for over 16 years. Currently, he resides in Houston and is working with Shell Oil Lubricants in the field of warehouse/logistics management operations.

Sean Lynch (BS in actuarial science and economics, 2014 and MA in applied mathematics, concentration in actuarial mathematics from DePaul University) is working as a graduate assistant and private tutor at DePaul University.

Matt Grezlik (BBA in economics, 2003) is in his 14th year as a financial advisor at Ameriprise Financial in Chicago. Matt has a Series 7 and Series 66 license, and is currently in the certification process for his Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) designation.

Moustafa Shahin (MA in economics, 2010) is working as an economics instructor at Oakland Community College and Baker Community College, and as an Arabic language instructor at University of Detroit Mercy.

John Rubino (BBA in economics, 2015) works for Cardinal Health in Dublin, Ohio. He is in a Financial Leadership Development Program that lasts 3 years, with the official title of Senior Analyst. Each year, he will be working in a new role in a different segment of the business, to accumulate knowledge and business acumen. He currently works in Medical Chargebacks, resolving discrepancies they have with suppliers. He is also a member of Cardinal's University of Michigan Recruiting Team.

Tracey Deeter (BS in mathematics and economics, 2001, and MA in economics from Trinity College, 2006 and MBA from the University of Hartland, 2009) has been teaching AP Economics, Statistics, and Mathematics (Calculus, Precalculus) for the past 15 years at

Kingswood Oxford School in West Hartford, Connecticut. Since 2010, she has also been a “reader” for the AP Macroeconomics exams. In 2015, Tracey was inducted into the EMU Athletic Hall of Fame in Women’s Soccer (see video [HERE](#))

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We welcome and encourage you to contact us for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- * Links, updates, or statuses that you would like to share for the next newsletter.
- * Internship or employment opportunities for our graduate or undergraduate students.
- * Suggestions or comments regarding the student or alumni experience.

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