

# The Opportunist

Fall 2015 Volume 4, Issue 2

November 2, 2015



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## *Nobel Prize for Economics*

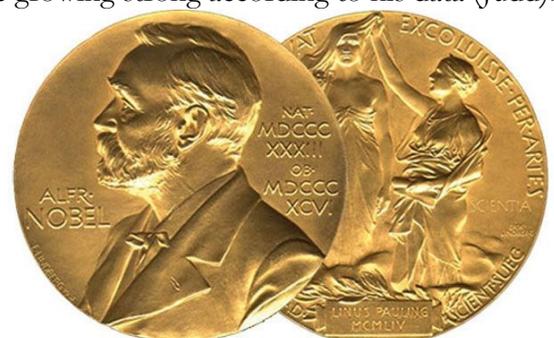
In recent news, the Nobel Prize for Economics was awarded to Princeton professor Angus Deaton. Hailing from Scotland, Deaton has been praised for his research regarding the subtleties of mankind and how the decisions in today's day and age have resulted in the data we find on a large scale. His ideas on some of the most fundamental parts of economics - such as demand, consumption, and poverty - contain a positive outlook on the future, which is something to be desired in recent times.

Deaton chooses to give a refreshingly optimistic view of our present and future in his book, *The Great Escape*, which was released in 2013. According to Deaton, if we look back at mankind's past in a general sense, we will find that life has never been better than it is now. We live longer and do more for our health than we ever have before. Our progress in fields such as medicine and science has allowed us to live better lives and we have learned to help each other through global aid or simply lowering inequality across the board. Deaton provides, as is described by the *New York Times*, a "deeply positive" message regarding our passion to do and *be* better as a people (Leonhardt).

In order for us to continue this forward trend, Professor Deaton advocates a more humanities-oriented approach on how economics deals with politics, psychology, and morality. In a reciprocal manner, said politicians and modern thinkers should look to economists and the markets in order to create a mutual exchange of ideas in social science that progresses more towards a higher standard of living for an increasing amount of people. At the same time, education has become more readily available in countries that are just starting to understand the value it brings to the development of stronger nations. Once again, things are looking up

as the spread of ideas becomes easier and more accessible every day via globalization and the ever-expanding web of the internet. The persistent will to strive for better, which harkens all the way back to the Scottish Enlightenment, as Deaton proudly points out in a recent interview, seems to be growing strong according to his data (Judd). Hopefully he is right and things will continue to look bright (at least in some small way), while shining light in our ever increasingly murky and uncertain world.

-John Fitzpatrick '17



# *Interview with Dr. Nancy Fox, Associate Professor of Economics*

## **How long have you been at SJU and what roles have you had over the years?**

“I started here in August 1986 and I was beat by Dori by six months (started in February 1986). In the early 2000s, I served as Associate Director of the Faith Justice Institute and in January 2004, I joined the Dean’s office as Associate Dean of the Social Sciences until June of this year.”

## **What does an Associate Dean do?**

“As Associate Dean, I oversee the social science departments. I access student and faculty issues, programing, registration, admissions, and alumni relations. I work with almost every office for academic issues.”

## **What do you plan on doing while on sabbatical this year?**

“Mostly rest and relaxation. I went to the beach on Labor Day and I will travel to Israel in November. I also plan on getting back into research and preparing for my classes for next year.”

## **How does it feel to return to the Economics Department after 12 years?**

“It feels exciting and different because it’s a whole new department since I was there. Dr. Bookman and Dr. Burke are the only ones left from when I was there 12 years ago.”

## **What are your research specialties and past classes taught?**

“My research is in economic ethics and industrial organization. Previously I have taught: Principles of Microeconomics, Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization, Labor Economics, Poverty & Income Distribution, Ethics in Economics, and Prophets and Profits (honors team taught course).”

## **What are your goals for next year and beyond?**

“I want to get involved with the life of the department. Develop some new courses (ex: Economics of Food). I also want to get to know students more and have advisees.”

## **Fun fact about yourself (particularly something that relates to SJU)?**

“I’m Jewish in a Catholic community and have embraced the mission of SJU as a Jewish woman by teaching how Catholic social teaching applies to Economics.”

-Jarrett Hurms ‘18

## *Upcoming Economics Society Meeting*

The next Economics Society meeting will be held on 11/5 in the Presidents' Lounge. The topic will be "Non-Profits and Economics" and will include a panel of those who are working/have worked in non-profit organizations. The panel will include Lauren Williams ('12; Peace Corps), Brian Carney ('13; Benefits Data Trust), Gabriela Rozassa ('14; Profugo), and Dr. Divya Balasubramaniam (Profugo). Each will provide discussion of why they chose non-profit work, how their education prepared them to work in this field, and how current students can get involved in non-profit work. Pizza and soda will be served. All Economics Majors and Minors are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. C ([lcrispin@sju.edu](mailto:lcrispin@sju.edu)).

## *Academic Internship Opportunities*

Students, there are numerous internship opportunities for the Spring semester via ECN 491 to suit majors and minors. Interested in healthcare, wealth management, labor economics? There is a program for you. How about insurance, non-profits, banking or environment? There's something for you too. Check out information on internships in the Economics Department suite and contact Dr Bookman ([mbookman@sju.edu](mailto:mbookman@sju.edu)) for more information. Students must have GPA>3.0 to participate.

## *New Course in Economics: ECN 487 Research Methods*

For anyone interested in a career in economic analysis, this class is for you! This brand new course will aid students in developing their own research paper. Students will choose a research question that interests them, and throughout the semester, we will work to build a research paper from the ground up. Students will use the tools learned in statistics and econometrics to analyze data to address their research question, and as a class, we'll have writing and research workshops, discussions of current research, and discussions of current policy. It is writing intensive certified, and is also a course for the quantitative economics track. And surprise! This class is also part of a One-to-One iPad Pilot Program, so students in the course will be assigned iPads to use for the semester. It is going to be amazing! Questions? Email Dr. Crispin ([lcrispin@sju.edu](mailto:lcrispin@sju.edu))

## *EMMM Panel on Law and Economics Wrap-Up*

On Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, students and faculty alike enjoyed a panel discussion on law and economics in the ever-evolving Presidents' Lounge of the Campion Student Center. Pizza and soda flowed endlessly as we heard from Denise Vicario, J.D., President of the SJU Law Alumni chapter, Robert Bernardo, J.D., a graduate of Rutgers School of Law, Christopher Nuneviller, J.D., Adjunct Professor of Legal Studies and Management, and Susan Liebell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science and Pre-Law Advisor. Our stomachs were nourished and our minds were enriched with knowledge as students learned just what it takes to make it in the field of law- including the astonishing fact that no matter your intelligence level, you just *don't know* how to read in law school. It is a skill set that takes a lot of practice to master. Among the field of questions asked, one of the most important aspects of law (and life in general) that students learned was the idea of *communicating* with people. This importance was stressed over the course of the panel in that it was a *discussion* meant for the students to communicate with the panelists, not just to have the panelists talk at the students for the duration of free period. On behalf of the Economics Society, we would like to thank everyone who came out to make the panel what it was, and a special thank-you to our panelists for giving their time to encourage the future students of the law in their endeavors. We wish you the best of the luck and look forward to working with you again!

-Chris Tobia '16



## *SJU Economics on Social Media*

In an effort to connect our students, faculty, alumni, and employers in real time, the Economics Department is increasing its social media efforts. All are encouraged to follow the department on Facebook and Twitter. Using these sites, we'll be posting alumni updates and congratulations, job listings for economics majors, departmental events, and university updates. Dr. Crispin also live-tweets with photos from major department events like Alumni Networking Nights and graduation. If you have any updates or information that you'd like to share, please email Dr. C at [lcrispin@sju.edu](mailto:lcrispin@sju.edu).

We also encourage all of our current students and alumni to get "linked in" with one another. This will help to facilitate informal networking outside of our official networking night. The Undergraduate Economics Society now has a group on Linked In (search for Saint Joseph's University Undergraduate Economic Society) that all are welcome to join. Please contact the Economics Society President, Kelsey Lazicki, or Vice President, Jeromi Fernandez, for more details.



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## *Call for Alumni Volunteers*

Interested in participating in a future panel? We're always looking for alumni to return to Hawk Hill and share their experiences with us! Please contact Dr. Laura Crispin to discuss ([lcrispin@sju.edu](mailto:lcrispin@sju.edu)).

## *Your Opportunity to Write for The Opportunist!*

One good way to beef-up your resume is to write for The Opportunist. The Opportunist is the Economics Department's newsletter and we need more students who can provide articles. What will you do? Maybe you would interview an Economics graduate or a professor or write an article on the world economy today. Or maybe you have something to say. If you are interested please let Dori know and the staff will contact you and prep you for the next issue.

-Dr. Crispin

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