

# The Opportunist

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*Where are our Alumni Now?  
Highlighting: Patrick Kenny '13*

The Economics Department at Saint Joseph's University allows students to pursue many career opportunities, just ask alumnus Patrick Kenny '13. In this issue, we were grateful to learn more about his views on economics, the "real world," and Hawks basketball:



### **What did you study during your time at SJU?**

"I majored in Economics and minored in Risk Management & Insurance and Business Administration."

### **What was your favorite Econ class?**

"My favorite Econ class was *The History of Economic Thought* taught by Dr. Burke. I really enjoyed learning about the various economists and economic theories, and how they shaped the world's current view of economics."

### **What are you doing now for work?**

"I began working at Grant Thornton in the fall after I graduated from SJU and am currently a Senior Associate in Grant Thornton's Philadelphia Insurance Advisory Practice. I am based out of GT's Philadelphia office but work with various insurance companies across the United States providing business consulting services."

### **How does your Economics degree help you with this?**

"No two projects that I have worked on at Grant Thornton have been the same. I feel that the critical thinking and the knowledge gained from my economics degree helps me to understand the individual challenges companies face in the marketplace."

### **What advice would you give to any current Economics majors looking for a job?**

"Always be proactive and attend as many career fairs and networking events as you can."

### **Lastly, in your opinion, what's your prediction on how the Hawks close the season?**

"I have been able to attend some of the games this year and the team is really fun to watch. I think they will finish the season strong, make it to the NCAA tourney, and even be playing into 2nd weekend!"

- Chris Tobia '16

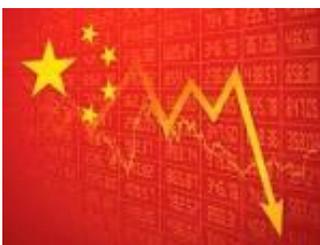
## *China's Slowing Growth: The Communist Conundrum*

China's Economy has seen a substantial slow down this past year, but many questions which might not be at the forefront of the public's mind could prove to be the most crucial. Those who are familiar with the Communist Regime of China will know the importance of incredulity and historical knowledge when putting the superpower into perspective. It is well known that all information coming in and out of the country is significantly filtered and often skewed by the Chinese Government. The reported 6.9% though much lower than the projected 7.3%, could actually be inflated to cover up the actual severity of their decline.

Given the borderline personality and traumatic history of the nation itself, such a failure may not seem unreasonably shocking mostly due to their political situation. A recent BBC article highlighting China's slowest economic growth in 25 years explains how the potentially manipulated data would only worsen the already tricky nature of the trustworthiness of the economic giant. However, brought up in the Economist article "Grossly Deceptive Plans," China sets goals for their GDP unlike other countries, and so far they have rarely failed to exceed it. As a means of manipulation, this tactic is effective in creating a false idea of how well the nation is doing. Regardless, this reported number when considered in the global economy still has the rest of the world in a state of anxiety. The "slow down," if it occurs too quickly, could result in a leap in unemployment which may be more than the country can currently handle. On the other hand, history has shown us that the strongest attempts at building and restructuring the industry of China have resulted in atrocious outcomes for the country if not done with the full consideration of *all* of the effects on the markets and population. The policies put in place by the current party have done little to prevent this situation from occurring, and now any attempt to change course will not be easy. Simply rigging the markets as they have done will not solve the overall issues. Their missed opportunities to manage its exchange rate policies and take advantage of the incoming cash flow that were there several years ago have now come back to haunt the Communist party, as per the Economist article: "The Yuan and the Markets." However, all is not lost in the grand scheme. 6.9% (if accurate) is still a solid amount of growth for a nation, and there are options available to them out west. Perhaps a full scale overhaul is not what is necessary.

Natural resources, while hard to obtain amongst the deserts, Himalayas, and plateaus that make up the "Rooftop of the World," are out there to be extracted, though this venture brings the issue of their social tensions along with it. The BBC article "Why is There Tension between China and the Uighurs?" details some of the reasoning. The West is home to a good number of immigrants, known as the *Uighurs*, who came from the surrounding countries in the region known as Xinjiang. There the Han Chinese are actually the minority. However, the prejudice of the Party prevents the Uighurs from receiving the better opportunities in employment and power. Uprisings and violent outbursts have been occurring there for some time, and with the poor track record of the Communist party's dealings with its agricultural sector, (which happens to be the primary source of economic stability in that region), it is a rather sticky situation for the nation's well-being as a whole. There have been several violent outbursts due to this social strain, and with increased attention, this current slow-down could matter worse.

At the moment, the world economy has its eye set on China discontentedly. A strong uncertainty hangs as thick as the smog found in the major cities of the nation. Capitalism has found its way into the markets there despite the socialist politics, but the missing elements of healthy growth such as those described by Adam Smith may have already predicted the end of the dream we had been witnessing for the past decades. Perhaps we are seeing this collapse now as it is desperately being covered up, or on the other hand this may prove to be a hiccup for the world's fastest growing nation. Time alone will be able to show how, (and if), China will recover from this poor display.



- John Fitzpatrick '17

# *Economics Society Spring '16 Calendar of Events*

*On behalf of the Econ Society, we cordially invite you to take a look at the events we have prepared for the Spring, 2016 Semester. We welcome all students to come to each entertaining and knowledgeable event and learn more about what it takes to enter the post-grad world. We hope to see you there!*

- **Wednesday, February 17, 2016** - Interview Workshop (**Time & Location:** 6:00-8:00 PM, 200 Science Center)
  - Come join us over pizza and soda for the first ever Economics Society Interview Workshop! Alumni will be on hand to talk about the interview process from both the employer and interviewee's perspectives.
  - There will be two workshops held after the discussion, giving you the opportunity to perfect both your resume and your elevator speech. You will immediately receive feedback on each of these important components of any job application and interview.
  - RSVP at <http://goo.gl/forms/qmM3kdnDFD>
- **Thursday, February 18, 2016** - BLS Lecture (**Time & Location:** 11:00 AM, Teletorium)
  - As part of our continuing ambassador program with the BLS, and on behalf of the Economics Society, Dr. Bookman invites you all to the Spring semester BLS lecture "Bureau of Labor Statistics: There's a stat for that!" The Regional Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Sheila Watkins, will be speaking. It will be an interactive event and we encourage all students to attend!
- **Wednesday, March 23, 2016** – Fourth Annual Networking Night (**Time & Location:** 7:00-9:00 PM, Doyle Banquet Hall South)
  - Join us for an evening of engagement, learning and professional development. It's an annual tradition you do not want to miss! The evening will feature a panel discussion with well respected alumni as well as networking with alumni, faculty, and industry partners. Appetizers will be served.
  - Free headshot photography offered from 6:30-7:30pm
  - For more information visit our website: <http://clubs.sju.edu/economics/>





## *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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@econSJU

## *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)).

## *Internships*

Interested in an internship? Stop by the Economics Department located in 107 Barbelin Hall to speak with Dr. Bookman or contact her at [mbookman@sju.edu](mailto:mbookman@sju.edu). Learn more about the companies that hire our majors and where current Econ students are interning. Our internship class, ECN 491, is held throughout the year so be sure to stop by! You don't want to miss out on an amazing opportunity!

## *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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