

The Opportunist

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Faculty Spotlight

Recently the SJU Board of Rank and Tenure officially announced their list of faculty who have received promotions. Two of the faculty mentioned in that list was our own Dr. Divya Balasubramaniam and Dr. Benjamin Liebman. Dr. Divya received tenure and was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor while Dr. Liebman was promoted to the rank of Full Professor.

Dr. Divya Balasubramaniam was appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and Asian Studies in the Fall of 2010 after receiving her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Georgia. Since 2010, she has taught in the Economics Department as well as done work with the Asian Studies and International Relations program. She also serves on the faculty senate and the GEP committee. Dr. Divya's primary research interests are: health economics, development economics, and applied econometrics. Since 2010 she has taught Principles of Microeconomics, Asian Economics, Chinese Economics, Economics of Healthcare, and Econometrics. Recently Dr. Divya was awarded the SJU Faculty Merit Award in Research. Some of her most recent research involved public health in developing countries, water access in India, and economic female empowerment. Dr. Divya is thrilled and humbled that SJU has recognized her commitment to teaching, research, and service at SJU over the last 6 years and is thankful for her recognition. Her involvement in both the Economics department as well as the SJU community has helped her share ideas freely while actively engaging and participating in activities that contribute to the mission of SJU.

Dr. Benjamin Liebman was appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics in the Fall of 2003 after receiving his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Oregon. He went into the field of economics during the mid-1990's after developing an interest in globalization. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2009 and chair of the department in 2011 after a year of chairing the International Relations Program. His research appears in several academic journals, including those of the Journal of International Economics and the Journal of Law and Economics. Over the past few years Dr. Liebman has taught: Principles of Macroeconomics, International Trade, Industrial Organization, Econometrics, and Economic Forecasting. Along with Dr. Divya, Dr. Liebman also received the SJU Faculty Merit Award in Research. Some of his most recent research was in: international trade protections and sanctions, safeguard in the US steel industry, trade liberalization, and import competition.

- Jarrett Hurms '18

Bureau of Labor Statistics

At the end of the year, it is only fitting that we acknowledge one of the best and most productive partners we have at St. Joseph's University: The Bureau of Labor Statistics. In February 2016, Sheila Watkins, the regional commissioner responsible for overseeing the activities of the BLS in the Mid Atlantic Region, graciously visited campus and gave a talk regarding many topics. Watkins shared with students across various majors an overview of not only the Bureau's main objectives as a government agency, but also some fascinating insights into why these statistics matter to us over the course of our lives.

For many years the Bureau of Labor Statistics has provided invaluable data to economists across the United States and is known as the principal fact-finding agency for the government. However, Ms. Watkins expressed how one of her main goals as a part of the BLS is to help all Americans make well-informed decisions in their lives. The information that they collect, analyze, and interpret is relevant to everyone in some capacity because it tells us about ourselves- our lives, as well as the lives of others, contribute to the data that is found in their archives. Current population surveys, employment statistics, underemployment, occupational employment statistics, wage statistics and many more are included in their published works, which are available online for use by the general public.

What might be most important to some students when learning about the Bureau is the job opportunities that they offer. The relationship between the BLS and Saint Joseph's University is strong and helps graduates to kick-start their careers as economists. Openings arise frequently, and St. Joseph's students have been known to do well by filling them. The mutual benefit between our two communities ultimately has led many to enter the workforce in stellar fashion, allowing them to do work that is not only fulfilling to them as they apply the skills acquired through our curriculum, but also aiding the economic field as a whole. Even if a graduating student doesn't necessarily wish to work for the BLS, they can still use the Bureau's information to help guide them to employment. Maps and tables that explain where the cost of living is affordable, what the average pay for workers in that area is, and where the employment rates are rising are all easily found on their website.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides an invaluable service to all economists and non-economists alike by collecting and sharing the information that makes up our entire lives from birth until death. We contribute and see the results of the data processed by the agency without even realizing it. We are enmeshed in the markets and spheres of life that the BLS takes care to track and report on. With the contributions made by the Bureau, we may become more informed, as well as successful, citizens. We students here at St. Joe's, especially in the Economics Department, are grateful to have access to all the opportunities that the BLS provides.



- John Fitzpatrick '17

Distinguished Guest Lecture



On April 19th, the Economics Society had the pleasure of hosting its annual guest lecturer. This year we invited the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Economic Analysis and Senior Advisor for Asia, U.S. Treasury Department - Robert Dohner. He was kind enough to entertain several of our Economics students, as well as faculty, during a breakfast meeting before he spoke, in which those in attendance were granted access to get to know him on a more personal level. They picked his brain on Economics, jobs in the U.S. Department of Treasury, laws pertaining to small businesses, and even the food spread served by Aramark! For his talk, Dr. Dohner spoke to a packed house at the Mandeville Teleitorium that consisted of all grade levels and across multiple majors. It was an honor to have someone of his stature supply our students with knowledge of the International World, and not solely the domestic United States. As a result of his position, Dr. Dohner is responsible for the region that extends from Pakistan and India through China, Korea, and Japan. During his lecture, he implemented ways in which the United States is interested in East Asia and the benefits of our country's relationship to this region of the world. We feel blessed to have had Dr. Dohner take his time to speak to our students and are excited to see what the future holds.



- Chris Tobia '16

Congratulations!

On behalf of the Economics Society, we would like to congratulate the following Economics majors and minors on their induction into Omicron Delta Epsilon- the International Economics Honor Society:

Alexandra Beauvais	Jeromi Fernandez	Tatiana Pulido
David Benyo	John Fitzpatrick	Chloe Ramsay
Jonathon Bloodgood	Michael Geraci	Gina Ranieri
John Bradley	Brendan Gillespie	Rachael Ranieri
Anthony Cerra	Zachary Hamilton	Luke Rosescu
Kyle Chalmers	Jordan Howard	Cheryl Rozinski
Nicholas Chingas	Tyler Lanctot	Peter Sitaras
Andrew Chirichella	Robert McGregor	Brett Sutow
Timothy Collins	Kathleen Morton	Nathaniel Vancil
David Doll	Evan Myers	Kyle Walder
Nicholas Domenico	Matthew Prieto	

And a special congratulations to the recipients of the Dr. George A. Prendergast Award for the students who best embodied his spirit in the economics department: Kelsey Lazicki '16, and Christopher Tobia '16.



At this time, we would also like to congratulate all of our seniors who have completed their time at Saint Joe's and made the Economics Department a special community to be part of. Go out and set the world on fire!

Nicholas Bastos	Joseph Hallak	Odhran O' Carroll
Jonathan Bloodgood	Nicholas Hopkins	Matthew Prieto
John Bradley	Christian Kassel	Chloe Ramsay
James Brier	Mary Korchak	Rachael Ranieri
Anthony Cerra	Kelsey Lazicki	Michael Rocchi
Nicholas Chingas	Tyler Lanctot	Anthony John Rossello
Michael Coleman	Sean Lenahan	Brett Sutow
Joseph Derowski	Kathleen Morton	Christopher Tobia
Patrick Dillon	Jonas Murphy	Joseph Tront
Jeromi Fernandez	Eric Newman	Daniel Tumolo
Alan Gassler	Joseph Novatnack	Nathaniel Vancil
Brendan Gillespie	Gennadiy Novik	Samuel Webb



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 will 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 would like to share, please email Dr. C at 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.



Call for Alumni Volunteers

Interested in participating in a future panel? We are 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).

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. 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 could 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

For more information, contact Dori Pappas at:

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