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Message from the Chair
Dr. Nivine Richie

What a busy and productive year it’s been as we welcomed three new faculty members to our department and launched a new online Master of Science in Finance & Investment Management degree that is consistent with the CFA Institute Candidate Body of Knowledge. Despite the disruption of Hurricane Florence, we can look back at fall 2018 and look ahead at the rest of spring 2019 and see the momentum that describes the students and faculty of the Department of Economics & Finance.

This year we are very happy to welcome three new faculty members:
• Dr. Brandon Brice, Instructor of Economics, who joins us from Florida State University
• Dr. Miran Hossain, Assistant Professor of Finance, who joins us from Florida Atlantic University
• Mr. Greg Putnam, CFA, Instructor of Finance, who joins us from the University of South Carolina

We continue to seek applied learning opportunities for our students. The NYC trip was another success as was the Fed Challenge team, the CFA Investment Research Challenge team, and the Fiscal Challenge team. Our honors students are busy preparing for the Dallas Fed Undergraduate Research conference and the 2019 Prague team is just weeks away from spring break in the Czech Republic to present the results of this year’s business consulting project.

Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support the Department of Economics & Finance. We appreciate it and we count on your financial gifts to allow us to continue to provide high quality programs for our students. If you’re not currently supporting the department, please consider joining us and asking if your employer matches your gift.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on campus or at future events.

Dr. Nivine Richie
The Economics & Finance department would like to congratulate our Fall 2018 Outstanding Graduates

Economics: Hannah Compton
Finance: Alejandra Rodriguez de Baudanza

Agustin Savarino passed the CFA Level I exam, administered in December 2018. Mr. Savarino is an international student from Argentina who has a double concentration in Finance and Accounting. He also serves as captain of the UNCW Men’s Tennis Team.

Mr. Savarino was awarded a CFA Scholarship by the Department of Economics and Finance which enabled him to register for the exam at a significantly reduced cost. Mr. Savarino completed approximately 450 hours of self-study for the six-hour exam. He intends to continue taking the remaining two exams to earn the coveted Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

The pass-rate for this exam is around 35%. Dr. Sackley feels this puts Agustin in a very elite group of students, especially given the other demands on his time.
Dr. Brandon Brice is an economics lecturer in the Department of Economics and Finance. He joined the Cameron School faculty in the Fall of 2018, after completing his PhD in economics at Florida State University. Brandon has a passion for interactive and discussion-based learning, and has won several teaching awards while instructing economic development and principles courses. His research interests are in institutions and development, law and economics, and economic education. In his spare time he enjoys boxing, disc golf, reading, video games, and watching hockey.

Dr. Miran Hossain

Dr. Hossain is an Assistant Professor of Finance in the Economics and Finance department. He joined the Cameron School of Business in Fall 2018 after completing his PhD in finance at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Hossain’s teaching interests include Principles of Finance, Corporate Finance, Equity Valuation. His research falls under the broad umbrella of empirical corporate finance with particular interest in corporate governance, mergers and dividend policy. His recent agenda includes examining the implications of corporate executives’ social ties on various corporate finance policies. Prior to joining academia, Dr. Hossain has worked in the banking industry for five years. Outside of the work life, Dr. Hossain is an avid photographer. He also enjoys travelling, playing cricket and table tennis.

Mr. Greg Putnam, CFA

Mr. Greg Putnam, CFA (M.A., University of South Carolina 1996) is a Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Finance in the Cameron School of Business at UNCW. Prior to joining UNCW, he taught for three and a half years in the Department of Finance at the University of South Carolina’s Moore School of Business. His industry background includes twenty years of experience as a Portfolio Manager, Economist, Investment Research Analyst, and Chief Investment Officer. His academic interests include: Economic and Financial Market History, Portfolio Management, and Institutional Investments (Pensions and Insurance). Personal interests include: history, culture, psychology, running, reading, and writing.
For the twelfth consecutive year, UNCW provided applied learning opportunities to students in economics and finance by taking students to New York as part of the New York Experience Class. Following finals for the fall semester, faculty members Tom Simpson and Ethan Watson led a group of 30 students for company visits as part of a class (FIN295 – The New York Experience). This year the students visited leading financial companies such as Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Bank of America, Deutsche Bank, Bank of America – U.S. Trust, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and PI Capital. In addition, this year included a special treat in that Guy Adami of the television show Fast Money hosted the students on set while the show was being broadcast. In the course, students are encouraged to learn about career opportunities in New York through doing research about the companies that they visit. While in New York, students also get the opportunity to learn about the different organizations from the company hosts, which included chief economist and executives from the firms. The New York Experience also included a mixer with New York based alumni. A growing network of New York-based alumni has continued to graciously support this mixer by attending and making connections with the students. Some of these connections have led to students getting jobs.
2018-2019 Fed Challenge

UNCW Fed Challenge is an extracurricular activity for advanced students in economics and finance who desire to know more about monetary policy and macroeconomics in general. Each year, a team of students produces a detailed presentation on the current state of the U.S. economy and provide their recommendation for monetary policymakers. In the fall semester, teams from universities across the Carolinas compete in front of a panel of judges. The winning teams advance to district tournaments and eventually the national tournament at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C. UNCW’s team is advised by Drs. Simpson, Jones, and Soques.

Team Members:
Joel Williams
Caleb Kuhne
Garrett Wade
Vaughn Burgess
Hannah Compton
Cole Langlois

Schedule Overview

Monday, March 25

Economics & Finance Mixer 5:00-6:30 p.m. CIS 2nd floor lounge
BB&T Global Capitalism Lecture Series - Aaron Beam 7 p.m. Burney Center

Tuesday, March 26

Business Week General Sessions 9-12 p.m. Cameron Hall
Lunch on the Lawn 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Cameron Hall Tents

Wednesday, March 27

Alumni Recognition Breakfast 7-8:30 a.m.
Business Week General Sessions 9-12 p.m. Cameron Hall
Lunch on the Lawn 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Cameron Hall Tents

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Cole Langlois
Allison Witman, Ph.D. joined the Cameron School of Business as an Assistant Professor of Economics in 2017. Dr. Witman’s recent publications focus on the impact of Medicaid policy on chronic conditions management and health behaviors such as smoking and substance abuse. In “Impact of Financial Incentives on Service Use, Spending, and Health in Medicaid” published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Dr. Witman and coauthors evaluated the impact of financial incentives for Medicaid patients to engage in diabetes prevention, diabetes management, weight management, and hypertension management. In related work published in Health Services Research, Dr. Witman and coauthors examined the impact of financial incentives for smoking cessation in a population of Medicaid patients. Both of these articles were supported by funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. “The Role of Health Insurance on Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders: Evidence from the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion” published in the Journal of Health Economics shows that Medicaid expansion increased admissions to specialty treatment facilities for opioid use disorder, implying potential benefits of expanding Medicaid to non-expansion states as a policy option for addressing the opioid epidemic.

Giving to the Economics & Finance Department

Your donation to the department helps support student activities, faculty research and other expenses.

Please visit www.uncw.edu/giveonline to make a credit card donation, and don’t forget to select the Economics and Finance Department as the area to support. If you prefer to send a check, please contact Dr. Nivine Richie at richien@uncw.edu for mailing information.

Thank you for investing in our students!

For any questions regarding this publication, or if there is anything you would like to see featured here, please contact Dr. Nivine Richie at richien@uncw.edu