

St. Cloud State Student Chapter Newsletter

March 2010

Renowned St. Cloud Economist King Banaian discusses the State of the Local Economy



King Banaian speaking at the parent chapter sponsored PDM at the St. Augusta Legion, on March 2, 2010

More than 50 APICS members and guests from industry and St Cloud State University students attended SCSU's professor and economist Dr. King Banaian's presentation on "The State of the Economy in 2009: What Happened to Manufacturing in St Cloud in the Last Decade."

Dr. Banaian discussed the economic development of St Cloud from the early stone-cutting operations to the diverse manufacturing operations of today. In the beginning St Cloud began many operations based on river-transportation. Those enterprises were followed by industries associated with the quarries, provisions, and printing.

Local manufacturing companies benefitted from the abundance of student-employees, and subsequently St. Cloud's employment average has been consistently higher than the U.S. average in manufacturing. The average continued to stand its ground comparatively even though it began to slightly fall.

Banaian explained how St Cloud has faced four recessions over the last twenty-two years. He said that the current recession is by far the worst since the Great Depression.

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Deann Elfering speaks on Opportunities for Women in Manufacturing, and Supply Chain Management Issues



Deann Elfering speaking at the student chapter sponsored event on March 18, 2010 at St Cloud State University.

Deann Elfering spoke to a group of 62 Operations and Supply Chain management students on March 18, 2010, about "Opportunities for Women in Operations, and current Supply Chain Management issues." Deann is V.P. of Membership on the Central Minnesota APICS Board of Directors, and Logistics Manager at Creative Memories, Inc.

March is National Women's History Month, and Deann spoke about opportunities for women in the fields of Operations and Supply Chain Management. She described her own career path as former Operations Management major at SCSU, through the early post-graduation years, and to her present position in supply chain management. Students reported that they were pleased to hear about the achievements made by a woman, and how continual improvement of one's skills helps one to excel in life.

Deann said that during her time at SCSU, she joined APICS, and found that being a member of APICS opened a variety of doors to her. She was able to network with other members, and was told about an internship opportunity for which she could apply.

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.....King Banaian. Continued from page 1.....

In 2007-2008, the recession first hit the Northeastern part of the state, where the housing market decline began to take an early toll. In 2009, eighty percent of manufacturing companies in the United States decreased their production. Eventually in 2009 when the recession hit the Saint Cloud area, two out of every five jobs lost were in manufacturing.



King Banaian talks to CMN APICS president Darrel Watercott.

King Banaian mentioned that many companies have not changed their structures in response to the changes being faced in today's market-driven economy. Although production has increased; employment has not. Where do unemployed workers go then? It is found that when one industry declines, unemployed employees and capital move to nearby working industries. Because the local economy has not turned around, many former manufacturing workers are relocating to industries that promise alternate employment.



King Banaian, Darrell Watercott, and Marjorie LaTour

Dr. Banaian said that businesses with capital are expected to lead the current economic recovery because consumer spending has decreased significantly. He argued that because St Cloud's downturn lagged behind the national recession, the local economy may lag behind the recovery of the national economy. Banaian cautioned that unemployment rates in the past have usually lagged economic recoveries by at least two years.

...Deann Elfering. Continued from page 1...

Deann then interned with Columbia Gear as a production planner. Deann mentioned that her experiences in APICS and related jobs have helped her get where she is today. Today, Deann is on the CMN APICS board of directors, and is working as a logistics manager for Creative Memories. Deann acquired her CPIM certification early on in her career.



62 students attended Deann Elfering's presentation

Deann next spoke about her experiences as a logistics manager and the supply chain management function. Deann spoke to students about her role and how her experiences led her to where she is now. She talked about the organizational structure of Creative Memories and how it is predominately a female-employee organization. Deann stressed the importance of building relationships and continuing education.

Deann's experiences made it evident that women and men are equally capable of performing a variety of tasks at hand in different industries. Continually improving your skill set, trying new things, taking chances, and being open and conscientious enables individuals to grow and be prepared for opportunities in related careers.



Deann explains some of the aspects of her work

Towards the end of Deann's presentation, she mentioned job opportunities that are available, particularly in customs compliance. She also stated that we would be greatly benefited by becoming APICS certified.

Case Competition Review



The Case Competition team: Alexander Bronder-Roznauer, Jason Wester, Paul Berkesch, Chad Garlock, and Dan Thell

On March 4, 2010 The APICS student members who participated in the 2010 National Case Competition held in Downer Grove, Illinois, gave a presentation to students about the strategy they used at the conference. They spoke to students about how to prepare their recommendations that they were to present based on the facts given.

SCSU's student chapter was the only entrant from Minnesota. This is the first time that the Central Minnesota student chapter has been represented in the annual Case Competition. From there, each team was presented with a case and informed that they were required to develop a paper, presentation, and recommendations of the analysis given. This experience enabled chapter members the opportunity to think outside the box, and use skills acquired to help their teams succeed. This also gave other SCSU chapter members the chance to hear about useful techniques used in the industry to solve work related problems.

Overall the students learned a great deal in such a short time at the competition. The experiences gained helped to support the materials being learned inside the classroom.

Grede Foundries Inc. Hosts Plant Tour

On March 16, 2010, a group of students attended a plant tour at Grede Foundries. They were able to learn about the company and how it manages its operations, and also about its customers. Grede Foundries has approximately 2,750 employees and it operates twenty-four hours a day.

Multiple graphs hang on the surrounding walls to provide performance information to employees and to give them a sense of achievement. The company also focuses

on preventive safety measures to ensure employees feel valued and to prevent loss.

Some well known customers of Grede Foundries are Toyota, John Deere, Ford, GM, and others. The company operates at 87% capacity. 80% of parts made are used in automotive applications. Sales dropped when Toyota experienced difficulties with its vehicles.

Some points of interest were their BMD machines. The machines operate at sixty-nine gross miles per hour, and makes large parts. Engineers from Germany came to study Grede's machine process capabilities. Grede Foundries is constantly innovating and improving process capabilities, which have made them a leader in their industry. Currently they are ISO 9002 and ISO14000 Certified. These certifications enable them to produce high quality products and thus gain the confidence of their customers.

Overall, the students enjoyed the tour and learned that Grede was committed to continuous improvement, high quality, and the safety of its workforce. Students were able to walk through the plant and watch the processes being performed. Grede's dedication to its customers' satisfaction has contributed to the company's success in the marketplace.

Professional Development Meetings

Price for PDM is \$10 for student members and \$25 for Non-Members

Tour of **DCI INC.** in Saint Cloud; April 6, 2010; 5:30 p.m.

Student Member Meetings

(All APICS student members)

April 8, 2010; 3:30 p.m.; Atwood- Voyageurs North

Student Board Meetings

(Only APICS student board members)

April 13, 2010; 3:30 p.m.; CH 446

Student Research Colloquium

April 20, 2010, time TBA; in Atwood Ballroom

New Student Board Election & Transition

April 22, 2010; 5:30 p.m.; Alumni Room in Atwood

Joint Recognition Ceremony

April 26, 2010; 5:30 p.m.; Alumni Room