ECONOMIC FORECAST 2016: “WORLD AT A CROSSROADS”

Before an audience of roughly 800, Cal State Fullerton economists Mira Farka and Anil Puri stressed that the common thread permeating 2016’s “wildly unlikely events” is “a deep sense of resentment, anger and frustration with the status-quo” despite gains made during the current recovery. The two spoke at the University’s annual Economic Forecast, “World at a Crossroads: Navigating Risks in Pursuit of an Ideal Climate,” on Nov. 2.

Puri pointed to examples of stress throughout 2016: the concerns about China’s economy, worries about financial volatility and the Fed rate, the collapse in commodity prices and “on top of that, we had the election, and that had its own challenges,” he added. “Uncertainty and confusion seem rampant these days.”

Job growth has occurred in high- and low-income sectors, Farka noted, but weak for middle-income occupations. Part of this has occurred because of the loss of manufacturing positions: “In 1980, manufacturing employed roughly 14 million; in 2010, it had dropped to 8.4 million,” Farka explained. The main causes, she added: “About 3.8 million was due to automation, only 1.6 million because of trade.”

A NEW LOOK AND FEEL FOR EXPANDED STUDENT UNION

Students, administrators, faculty and staff joined in the fall festivities in honor of the latest expansion of the Titan Student Union. Visitors can now lounge on the grand staircase, share a coffee in expanded gathering areas, discuss a school project in one of the new meeting rooms, or just view a bit of the campus from floor-to-ceiling windows. These are just a few of the features incorporated into the additional 27,000 square feet added to the 40-year-old structure during approximately two years of construction.

The expansion also incorporates a number of sustainable design features, such as the use of California native plants to reduce the demand for potable water and use of pesticides, high-performance glazing on windows, energy-efficient light fixtures and lighting controls, and water-conserving plumbing fixtures.

The Titan Student Union was last renovated in 1992, when the building was expanded to 140,000 square feet. The latest expansion was designed to serve a student population of more than 40,000.

PERFORMANCES, SPECIAL GUESTS MARK 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CLAYES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Ten years ago, College of the Arts alumnus Marc Cherry, the creator of “Desperate Housewives” and “Devious Maids,” helped kick off a three-day inauguration of the Joseph A.W. Clayes III Performing Arts Center. This year, he returned to celebrate the center’s 10th anniversary, joining other arts alumni, students and faculty who showcased their talent behind the scenes and on stages throughout the venue.

The Clayes 10th Anniversary Community Open House highlighted the talent and scholarship of students of music, dance, theater, design and technical production, and other disciplines within the College of the Arts through performances, backstage tours and an art exhibition.

The open house concluded with a performance in Meng Concert Hall featuring the Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, directed by music professor Bill Cunliffe, with special guest Doc Severinsen, the Grammy Award-winning trumpeter and former bandleader of the NBC Orchestra featured on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.”
Did You Know?: Raising the Profile of Older Adult Needs in Orange County

Debbie Rose, director of Cal State Fullerton’s Center for Successful Aging and a professor of kinesiology, is on a mission to raise the profile of older adults’ needs in Orange County.

There are currently more than 431,000 adults ages 65 or older who live in Orange County — and that population is expected to nearly double by 2040 — according to a new report released by the Orange County Healthy Aging Initiative. The initiative is co-chaired by Rose and Helene Calvet, deputy county health officer.

Some of the areas of concern include:

- Alzheimer’s disease is now the No. 3 three cause of mortality in Orange County among older adults.
- A growing number of older adult couples (21.9 percent) and singles (44.2 percent) do not have enough income to pay for even the basic necessities, such as food and transportation.
- We don’t have enough caregivers, and resources for caregivers, to address the needs of older adults.

CSUF is preparing students to work with the older adult population. The Center for Successful Aging serves as a learning laboratory for students across a variety of disciplines to work with older adults, dispel myths they have about the aging process and develop their communication skills.