Since the invention of the solar cell in 1883, demand for alternative sources of energy has increased considerably. Florida stands to greatly benefit from this technology due to its geography and climate. However, standing regulations on alternative energy in the state prevent third-party financing. This makes solar energy difficult to afford—especially for individuals and small business owners. Florida provides tax credits, financing opportunities, and rebates to those seeking to invest in clean-energy equipment.

While these incentives help increase solar production, Florida prohibits citizens from purchasing power directly from solar energy developers. Few generators of solar power are allowed to sell the energy they produce to consumers. Third-party financing takes two forms: the purchase power agreement (PPA) model and the leasing model. Under the PPA model, a private solar energy developer builds and maintains a solar energy system for free on the customer’s property. The consumer signs a contract to buy solar power from the developer, often paying lower rates for electricity. With the leasing model, the customer pays the developer over the course of several years for installing solar equipment on their own property. Both options are beneficial to consumers seeking low-cost energy alternatives.

Florida’s solar market has the potential to expand with third-party financing.
**Workshop Series: Dr. Anastasia Semykina**

by Catherine Annis

On November 14, 2017, DeVoe L. Moore Workshop Series attendees continued to delve into topics that enhance their academic research performance. Dr. Paul Beaumont presented on how to use physics to make fast forecasting predictions for the stock market and used real-life models to demonstrate the efficacy. Surprising to many in attendance, he explained that most of the analysts on Wall Street come from academic backgrounds in math or physics whereas those with backgrounds in economics and finance typically focus on making sales and interacting with clients.

Dr. Paul Beaumont is an associate professor of Economics at Florida State University. from myweb.fsu.edu

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**Saudian Arabian Entrepreneurship is Advancing Women’s Rights in the Middle East**

by Kristen Carpenter

Early in 2017, Saudi Arabia became the first country to grant citizenship to a robot named Sophia. Critics noted that while Sophia can roam the streets of the country unaccompanied, Saudi Arabia’s female citizens are not afforded this right. Women are still prohibited from working or travelling without male accompaniment. But these attitudes may be changing because of the efforts of Saudi entrepreneurs.

The Saudi Arabian government has implemented legislative reforms to allow women certain freedoms. For example, Saudi Arabia recently permitted women to drive. Legislation alone, however, fails to address the oppression of women who face severe restrictions in the country.

Social entrepreneurship can play an important role in facilitating gender equality in the country.

Social entrepreneurship can play an important role in facilitating gender equality in the country. For example, the factories of women working in factories, and companies that didn’t have women on their boards of directors.

Alkhudair remarks in an interview. By partnering with the Saudi Ministry of Labor, Glowork has access to the Ministry’s employment database. This data provides information on the 1.6 million jobless women in the country. GLOWORK

Glowork receives a commission from the government for each job match. Additionally, the company acts as an advisor to the government in drafting legislation that supports an increased presence of women entering the workforce. The company has successfully matched over 27,000 women with employment, facilitating economic growth and opportunities for female advancement.

While Saudi Arabia has a long way to go to achieve equality on a national level, the country has been successful in increasing female participation in the workforce.

Khalid Alkhudair founded GLOWORK in 1982 and is the first Saudi female job-matching service. Instead of receiving cheaper shipments from nearby islands, Puerto Rico must pay for expensive mainland shipments. The act could increase revenues in the water transportation sector by $5.5 billion annually. Florida, on the other hand, ranks second among the states in maritime jobs, and might see a decline in related employment and revenue. However, repeal of the Jones Act could increase economic growth in other sectors like the domestic water sector, agriculture, trade, and manufacturing.

**Is the Jones Act Sinking the Growth of American Industries?**

by Giovanna da Silva

The Jones Act was meant to protect the US maritime industry, regulate commerce, and bolster national defense. While well-intentioned, the act fails to reflect the current needs of the US economy. Repealing the Jones Act would prove beneficial to economic growth. One of the main provisions of the act requires vessels that carry goods between American ports are “owned by U.S. companies that are controlled by U.S. citizens with at least 75 percent U.S. ownership, at least 75 percent crewed by U.S. citizens, built (or rebuilt) in the United States; and registered in the United States.”

This requirement restricts competition, thus increasing the shipping costs. The act negatively impacts Puerto Rico in particular. Instead of receiving cheaper ships from nearby islands, Puerto Rico must pay for expensive mainland shipments. Repealing the act would increase revenues in the water transportation sector by $5.5 billion annually. Florida, on the other hand, ranks second among the states in maritime jobs, and might see a decline in related employment and revenue. However, repeal of the Jones Act could increase economic growth in other sectors like the domestic water sector, agriculture, trade, and manufacturing.

**DMC interns regroup for an introduction to the team and a message from Director Samuel Staley.**

**Val Rodriguez and social entrepreneurship intern talk about priorities and research projects for the semester.**

**Giovanna da Silva and writing coaches discuss goals and guidelines for the upcoming semester.**

**The DMC mission and expectations for future research.**

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**Intern Onboarding Event**

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