Don Phares, scholar, researcher, teacher, urbanist, university administrator, sports fan, father, friend, and colleague died peacefully at his home in St. Louis, MO, on June 27, 2015.

Don received his BA in Economics from Northeastern University and both an MA and PhD in Economics from Syracuse University. He joined the UMSL Department of Economics in 1969 and served the department for over 30 years. Don was instrumental in the early development of the department. He inspired many students, some of whom went on to obtain PhD degrees in Urban Economics and Public Finance, and many others who took positions as policy analysts in government.

Don served as Economics chair, but his commitment to UMSL extended well beyond our department. He held a joint faculty appointment in the Public Policy Administration Program and was a central figure in the history and development of the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC). He also served as vice chancellor. His contributions were widely recognized and highly valued. In 1997, he received the University of Missouri Thomas Jefferson Award, which is presented annually to a faculty member who “rises above excellence and demonstrates clear distinction in teaching, research, and service to the University of Missouri and humankind.”

Don was an expert urban economist, specifically focusing on the greater St. Louis area, which made him a sought after source to be quoted and interviewed by local and national media. He served as an expert witness in legal cases and conducted numerous economic and fiscal impact studies for public and private organizations. Don authored or edited six books, and wrote more than eighty articles and book chapters and scores of technical and government reports. He was also very active in the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) and was inducted into the UAA Service Honor Roll.

Don’s contributions to the Department and the University will long be remembered. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues and former students.
PROGRAM

2:30 pm  Welcome
Scott Phares

2:40 pm  Don Phares: Scholar, Campus Leader, Teacher, Colleague

Moderator:
Bob Sorensen, Professor of Economics, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Panelists:
Dennis Judd, Professor of Political Science, University of Illinois at Chicago
Sharon Levin, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Donald Norris, Professor and Director of the School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Blanche Touhill, Chancellor Emeritus, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Bruce Welz, Associate Professor of Economics, St. Charles Community College

3:50 pm  Don Phares: Community Advisor

Moderator:
Terry Jones, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy Administration, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Panelists:
Tim Fischesser, Former Executive Director, St. Louis County Municipal League
Frank Hamsher, President, Hamsher Public and Civic Affairs
Dee Joyner, Former Senior Vice President, Commerce Bank
Lottie Wade, Former Senior Vice President, United Way of Greater St. Louis

4:55 pm  Closing Remarks
Kathy Phares

5:00 to 6:30 pm Reception