

Remembering Sharon G. Levin



Emerita Professor **Sharon Levin** passed away on August 21, 2017 (during the evening of the day that the total eclipse crossed the United States) after a long and hard-fought fight against breast cancer.

The Department held an event at Gallery 210 on campus on Jan 31, 2018 to celebrate Sharon's accomplishments. At this event, we also officially renamed the ERC: it is now the **Sharon G. Levin Economics Resource Center**.

Here we remember Sharon through photos from "back in the day," a bio of Sharon (same wording as what is on the plaque in the ERC), photos of the new signage from the ERC, and photos of those attending the event. We also point you to a remembrance of Sharon Levin that appeared in [CSWEP News](#), a publication of the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status

of Women in the Economics Profession, and an [UMSL Daily article](#) that was published following the January 31st event.

So many alums wrote memories of and tributes to Sharon. **Kate Krause** (MA 1991), now Professor of Economics and Dean, University College, at University of New Mexico-Albuquerque, succinctly summarized the sentiments of so many. Her words are included on the plaque: "Sharon was the one who brought me into the fold at UMSL and, as I often say, that is what changed my life." **Rick Schmidt** (BS 1990), now an Emergency Physician with TeamHealth, sent a particularly entertaining memory that will ring a bell with many: "I will always remember her intermediate micro class - specifically how in her discussion of utility she revealed her preference for fast cars over jewelry! (She referenced her Mazda RX-7)."

REMEMBERING SHARON G. LEVIN: A CELEBRATION

PROGRAM

Welcome Anne Winkler, Chair and Professor of Economics, UMSL

Welcome and Early Collaborations with Sharon Levin Stanford Levin, Professor Emeritus, Economics, SIUE

Sharon Levin, Expert on the Rewards to Science and the Scientific Workforce, and Creative Innovator in the Application of Research Methods Paula Stephan, Professor of Economics, Georgia State University

Sharon Levin: Teacher, Mentor, Chair Extraordinaire & Academic Entrepreneur Susan Feigenbaum, Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor of Economics, UMSL

Sharon Levin's Final NIH Project on the Biomedical Workforce Anne Winkler

Sharon Levin: Mother—Collaborator—Ultimate Sports Fan Allison Levin

Official Renaming of the ERC— Sharon G. Levin Economics Resource Center Anne Winkler and Michael Allison, Assistant Chair and Academic Director of ERC, UMSL

Reception



Susan Feigenbaum and Sharon in Antarctica, standing in front of a "pod" of walruses!



Sharon, Sarapage McCorkle, and Liz Clayton



With Anne Winkler, from 2011 *UMSL Daily* article on IT & Publishing Productivity



Herb Werner, Don Phares, Susan Feigenbaum and Sharon at the 2014 Picnic

CHECK OUT OUR NEW ERC SIGNAGE!

(special thanks to MA student Flannery Allison for technical assistance)



BELOW IS THE PLAQUE AND TEXT

Sharon G. Levin June 10, 1947 – August 21, 2017 Professor, Extraordinary Researcher, Teacher, Tireless Mentor, and Champion of Colleagues and Students



Sharon Levin graduated from the Bronx High School of Science and continued her education at City College of New York (Phi Beta Kappa) and the University of Michigan. She earned both her M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan. Sharon joined the UMSL Economics faculty in 1974 rising to the rank of full professor in 1987. She built a reputation as a "triple hitter," excelling in teaching, research and service. For 15 years, she served as Chair and Director of Graduate Studies and quickly became a mentor to her colleagues and an advisor to countless students. During her tenure as Chair, Sharon was instrumental in creating the Department's student-centered culture that persists today. An alumna succinctly explained Sharon's impact: "[she] was the one who brought me into the fold at UMSL and, as I often say, that is what changed my life." Sharon also sowed the seeds for the extensive quantitative and data-oriented curriculum offered by the Department. Although she officially retired in 2003, she remained research active and was working on an NIH grant on the biomedical workforce up until her death.

Sharon's seminal research focused on the quality and composition of the scientific workforce. Sharon was a creative innovator and leader in the application of research methods related to science and immigration and painstakingly collected data to address questions of policy concern. She co-authored *Striking the Mother Lode in Science* (Oxford University Press, 1992) and published more than 40 journal articles, including publications in the *AER*, *RESTAT*, and *Science*. She secured grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, NSF, and NIH.

Sharon was honored by UMSL in 1993 with the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research and Creativity; she was the first female faculty member to receive this award. In recognition of her impact on the University, including her long tenure as department chair, she was honored with the UMSL Women's Trailblazer Award. No matter how busy Sharon was with her teaching, service, and research, she was always generous with her time and expertise. The success of those around her was just as important as her own personal success.

The ERC exemplifies the student-centered culture that Sharon created. The Sharon G. Levin Economics Resource Center will live on as a permanent way to honor Sharon's extraordinary research accomplishments and her legacy as a tireless mentor and champion of colleagues and students alike.

Not on the plaque, but more about Sharon!



Sharon was a passionate Yankees (Mickey Mantle) fan who eventually transferred her loyalty to the Cardinals. She loved everything about sports, whether it was baseball, tennis or football, and shared many sporting occasions - whether as a competitor herself or spectator - with her UMSL colleagues.

Please consider a donation to the brand new Sharon G. Levin ERC Support Fund. For online giving: <http://giving.umsl.edu/Levingifts> or by mail: Dept of Economics, 408 SSB, UMSL, One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121.
Support future students!

Sharon and daughter Allison at one of many, many Cardinals' games