

UMSL Department of Economics Newsletter—

A Message from the Chair

First, some sad news: **Don Phares**, Emeritus Professor, passed away on June 27, 2015. Don joined the Department of Economics in 1969 and was a faculty member for over 30 years. His numerous contributions to the Department and the University will long be remembered. Don will be greatly missed by his colleagues and former students. Please see Page 2 for more details on Don's many accomplishments.

There are upcoming changes in administration for the Department. This is my final year as Chair; **Anne Winkler** will take over as the new Chair in August. **Michael Allison** will serve as Assistant Chair. Michael will continue to serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Anne will continue to serve as Coordinator of "All Things Alumni." I will continue to serve as Director of Graduate Studies.

The University has a new look for its website (www.umsledu) and our Department has been "rebranded" as UMSL|Economics.

We are now on Twitter (look for UMSL|Economics), Facebook

(look for UMSL Department of Economics), and LinkedIn (look for UMSL Economics Alumni). If you are "social networkers," please help by re-tweeting, following, liking, etc.

Now for some good news:

- **Susan Feigenbaum** is now Curators' Teaching Professor. She is the first Department of Economics faculty member to hold this title. Please join me in sending group congratulations to Susan!
- **Bruce Welz** established (and fully funded) a new scholarship honoring Robert Loring Allen (see Page 3). The first award was made this spring. **Harry Heyburn**, an UMSL scholar-athlete (tennis) was the first recipient.
- In alumni news, **Marcela Manjarrez-Williams** left the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank and is now Senior Vice President and Chief Communications Officer at Centene. For more on the outstanding success of our alumni, see Pages 4-5.
- Following the elimination of Continuing Education on the UMSL campus, the Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education, headed by **Grant Black** (BS 1992, MA 1993), has "re-joined" the Department. We believe this should provide for even more synergy between the Center and the Department and look forward to new opportunities.

The Applied Econometrics and Data Analysis Certificate that we announced in summer 2013 has exceeded our expectations. As of this summer, we have already had nine Certificates awarded—including one student who came back after graduation to finish the

certificate. **Melissa Maxwell** (MA 2015) was the first Department recipient of the Graduate Policy and Program Evaluation Certificate (joint with MPPA). There are currently 12 dual-degree BS/MA ("2+3") students, our largest-ever cohort.

We were pleased to have an opportunity to reconnect with two far-flung alumni. **Victor Potopov** traveled from Toronto to attend this year's Alumni Party. (He received an unofficial award for "greatest distance travelled.") **Muneer Al-Maskery** (Distinguished UMSL Alum), from Oman, visited with Department members on a recent trip to St. Louis to meet with Joel Glassman and others in the Center for International Studies.

We are fortunate to have additional intellectual capital in the department: **Carl-Magnus Bjuggren** and **Tamas Csabafi**. Carl is a Post Doctoral Research Fellow from the Research Institute of Industrial Economics in Stockholm, Sweden. Tamas is a Post Doc working with **Max Gillman**; Tamas comes to us via Central European University (Budapest, Hungary) and Cardiff University (Cardiff, UK). Both Carl and Tamas increase our international profile (and make the Departmental average age significantly lower!).

Emilio Pagoulatos, former faculty member, has made a generous donation to start a Robert Sorensen Endowed Scholarship. We will be looking for additional donations in the coming months to help fund this scholarship. (See last year's Newsletter for a reminder of Bob's importance to the development and profile of the Department.)

Any of you who follow state budgets and/or news in higher education will not be surprised to learn that budgeting continues to be a problem for the



**Donald J. Kridel, Chair,
Department of Economics**

Department (and the UMSL campus). Uncertain state budgets continue to exacerbate the difficulty of educating our economics students; the generosity of our alumni continues to play a large role in our ability to effectively do so. I want to thank all of those who have donated to the Department—it really does help!

This is the third year of our revised newsletter; we believe that is considerably more informational than in the past. If you have items you would like added to next year's newsletter, please contact [Anne Winkler](#) or [Judy Cates](#).

Please join us—even if you have never done so before—at the **Fall Picnic** on Sunday, September 20th, and at the **Alumni Party** next spring on April 15th.

Inside this issue:

Remembering Don Phares	2
Alumni Award to Bruce Welz	3
Student Organizations	3
Alumni Success	4-5
Events	6-7
Departmental Giving	7
Student Success	8
Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education	9
Faculty News	9

2015 Fall Picnic

Sunday, September 20, 2015 from 12-3 pm at the **Irv Zeid Citizen's Park Pavilion, 9100 Old Bonhomme Rd in Olivette.**

2016 Alumni Party

Friday, April 15, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at the **Market Pub House at 6655 Delmar in the Loop.**

Remembering Professor Don Phares



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. While he formally retired in 2003, he continued his association with UMSL on a part-time basis and remained research active long into retirement.

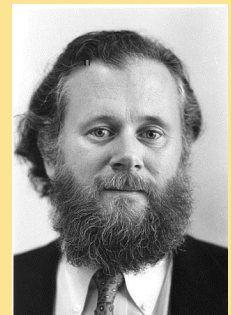
Don was instrumental in the early development of the department. He provided important input into the hiring of new research faculty, the development of the Master's program, and the introduction of the Bachelor of Science degree.

Along with the standard micro and macro courses, Don's teaching focused on Urban Economics and State and Local Public Finance, which he taught at both the graduate and undergraduate level. 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.

Former student, Jerry Evensky (MA 1979), Professor of Economics and Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence at Syracuse University, shared the following remembrance: "Don was instrumental - by his warm, thoughtful, nurturing and professional support - in shaping the trajectory of my career. I am eternally grateful to him and for him."

Despite the many other administrative claims on his time from various entities on campus, Don was always there when the department had a need. He served as department chair and often taught courses when he had other administrative assignments.

Don's commitment to UMSL extended well beyond our department. He held a joint faculty appointment in the Public Policy Administration Program. Further, he was a central figure in the history and development of the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC). Among his roles, he served as Director of the Center for Metropolitan Studies, one of the three units that later became the PPRC. As emeritus professor, he continued to be involved in PPRC activities. Don also served as vice chancellor. His contributions were widely recognized and highly valued. In 1997, he received the University of Missouri Thomas Jefferson Award. This award, only one of which is made per year, is presented to faculty members who "rise above excellence and demonstrate clear distinction in teaching, research, and service to the University of Missouri and humankind."



Don in the 1980s

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. Don served as an expert witness in legal cases pertaining to state and local taxation and economic trends. He also conducted numerous economic and fiscal impact studies for both public and private organizations. In 1987, he supervised the research staff for the state constitutionally-mandated governmental reorganization study of St. Louis City and County.



Bob Sorensen, Herb Werner, Don Phares at the Economics Fall Picnic in September 2014

Don authored or edited six books, including "Who Pays State and Local Taxes?" and most recently in 2009, *Governing Metropolitan Regions in the Twenty-First Century*. He also wrote more than eighty articles and book chapters and scores of technical and government reports. Among his professional service activities, Don served as co-editor of *Urban Affairs Quarterly* from 1985 to 1989. He stepped down from that role when he became vice chancellor. Don was also very active in the Urban Affairs Association (UAA); in 2013, he 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.

Alum Bruce Welz Establishes the Robert Loring Allen Memorial Scholarship

Bruce Welz (MA 1980), who recently retired after a long career at St. Charles Community College (SCC), has generously established a scholarship in the department as a tribute to the late emeritus professor, **Robert Loring Allen**. Prof. Allen was on the UMSL Economics faculty from 1968 through 1987 (for details on Prof. Allen, see column on right side of this page). Prof. Allen played an influential role in Bruce's career. He taught him not only economics, but also the importance of scholarship and clarity of writing in academic pursuits.

After receiving his degree at UMSL, Bruce taught for the department for a few years and then became Associate Professor of Economics at St. Charles Community College (SCC). During his tenure at SCC, Bruce was a mentor to many economics students. Our department is thankful to Bruce not only for sending us students, but more importantly, for sending us students who would succeed and prosper. The success of Bruce's students here at UMSL reflects positively not only on his ability as a teacher, but also, on the rigor and performance standards he demanded in his classes. Bruce's contributions to our department do not end there. Most recently, Bruce played an instrumental role in the hiring of **Lauren (Block) Dickens** (BS/MA 2008) as Assistant Professor of Economics at SCC, continuing the long relationship between the two departments.

In recognition of Bruce's outstanding contributions to the Department over his career, Bruce received the Department's 2015 Alumni Award.



L-R Lauren Dickens (BS/MA 2008 & Alumni Board member), Anne Winkler, Bruce Welz (MA 1980), Bob Sorensen, Herb Werner, Sarapage McCorkle (MA 1971) and Tom Ireland

About Professor Allen

The late Robert Loring Allen was Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Missouri-St. Louis. He was at UMSL from 1968 until 1987. His career as a professor of international economics and economic history spanned over 45 years. He was born in 1921 and served in WWII, where he was wounded. He then went on to complete a Ph.D. in economics at Harvard. He worked as an economist for the Central Intelligence Agency (1951-1956) and as a professor at the Universities of Virginia and Oregon prior to arriving at UMSL in 1968.

Robert Allen was a prolific writer and scholar. While at the CIA he authored the quintessential book on the viability of "economic warfare," with particular emphasis on the Soviet Union. While at UMSL his work focused on economic development and, in particular, on Venezuela and the role of oil and OPEC in economic development.



Dr. Allen was one of the early members of the department and was so important to its development. He served as department chair and was instrumental in establishing the importance of research and scholarship for its faculty members. As remembered by Bob Sorensen, he liked to say "We're not a department of publish or perish, we are a department of publish and prosper."

After leaving UMSL in 1987, he continued writing. He wrote ten other books during his lifetime, including a highly regarded two-volume biography of Joseph Schumpeter and a biography of Irving Fisher. Dr. Allen passed away in Nashua, New Hampshire in 1991.

Student Organizations

NABE (National Association for Business Economics)

ODE (International Honor Society in Economics)

This year's main project, led by Melissa Maxwell, identified the spatial match between unemployment and job growth in the Saint Louis metro area. The results of this project will be posted on the department's website later this summer. Professor William Rogers is grateful to all the NABE project participants this year, especially Melissa. Projects for the upcoming year will be supported by the lessons learned from the first project and Rogers's summer R course.



WIE (Women in Economics)

The **Women in Economics (WIE)** group kicked off its inaugural year with a series of happy hours throughout the Spring and Fall semesters, concluding with a BBQ at Professor Lea Kosnik's home before finals in May. Many thanks to **Melissa Maxwell** (BS/MA 2015) and continuing students **Emma Nix**, **Abby Wood** and **Audrey Fischer** for serving on the WIE Board this first year. Melissa, in particular, deserves a shout-out for heading the activities and drawing in any and every female who dared show her face in the ERC throughout the year. We are quite sad to see Melissa go (though we wish her good luck at her new job!), but we look forward to another strong year of events and activities, headed next year by Emma Nix.

Any questions about the department's new Women in Economics group can be directed to Professor Kosnik (kosnikl@umsl.edu), the group's faculty advisor.



Alumni Success 2015

Muneer Al-Maskery (MA 1987) is founder and Executive Chairman of the Modern College for Business and Science (MCBS), Sultanate of Oman. He visited the Department in May, while meeting with UMSL faculty and administrators as part of UMSL's continuing cooperation in developing MCBS and its academic programs. (<http://blogs.umsi.edu/news/2015/06/09/al-maskery/>) Muneer completed his PhD in Political Science at UMSL in 1992 and received an UMSL Distinguished Alumni Award in 2000.

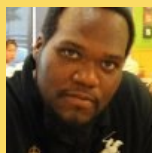


Greg Aubuchon (BS 1992, MA 2010) will start a new position at Lindenwood University on August 1st. He will be the Program Director of Undergraduate Economics and Finance and Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance in the School of Accelerated Degree Programs.



George David Banks (BS 1991; MA 1994) is now Executive Vice President, American Council for Capital Formation (ACCF) in Washington, DC.

Thomas Briggs (BS/MA 2013) completed his first year in the Economics PhD Program at Colorado State and is now a Graduate Research Assistant.



Jamie Brown (BS 2007) is now Vice President of Marketing at Caesars Entertainment Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio.

Simge Büyükkönder is Industry Sales Manager at the Endress+Hauser Group.

Sarah Calhoun (BS/MA 2012) has taken a position as an Economic Analyst at Baker and McKenzie in Chicago.

Michael Cassidy (BS/MA 2014) and **My Nguyen** (BS 2011) are now the proud parents of Michael Nguyen Cassidy, born March 2015. They have moved to New York, where Mike is now the Manager of Bloomberg's Economic Product (like FRED on the Bloomberg terminal) and My works as a Data Analyst for Anheuser-Busch Inbev.



Antonio Clair (BS 2014) is now working with the data team at Buckingham Asset Management as a Data Ops Associate.

Tyler Czarnecki (BS 2014) is Assistant Executive Director, Scenic Nursing and Rehabilitation.

Marcus Deckert (BS 2008) is Actuarial Manager at Pekin Insurance in Peoria, IL.

Gene Edmiston (BS 1991; MA 1993) is now Strategic Pricing Leader at Equifax in St. Louis.

Christian Falde (BS/MA 2007) has taken a new position as a Database Analyst at Leidos in O'Fallon, Illinois.

Mark Fellhauer (BS 2003) is now Assistant Vice President, The BANK of Edwardsville.

Jane Fedder (BA 1984) is Vice Chair, Environmental Practice Group, at Polsinelli.

Getanjali (Pande) Gamel (BS/MA 2006) and **John Gamel** (MA 2006) have returned to St. Louis from Seattle. Getanjali is now Data

Scientist at Mastercard and John is Business Leader at Mastercard Advisors.

Nick Glunz (BS 2014) is Project Control Specialist at NuScale Power in Albany, Oregon.

Michal Grinstein-Weiss (MA 2005) recently spoke on the importance of long-term asset-building policies before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. Michal is Associate Professor of Social Work and Associate Director of the Center for Social Development (CSD) at Washington University.

Keith Guller (BS 1976) received an Honorary Degree from UMSL at the August 2014 Commencement. He is the first graduate of the Department of Economics to receive this honor! Keith is president, chief operating officer and chief executive officer of Essex Industries, Inc.



Essex is a leading supplier to the aerospace and defense, first response, safety and medical markets. Keith is a strong supporter of UMSL, including the Department of Economics.

Kessie (Osborne) Hinkle (BS 2006) is now Staff Accountant at Birdsall Accounting Service in Kihei, Hawaii.

Hannah Hinton (BS 2014) recently took a position as Retirement Plan Specialist in the Wealth Products Group for Enterprise Trust Company in St. Louis.

Lisa Holland (BS 1994) is now Product Manager at American Financial Corporation (formerly Interthinx).

Micah Hughes (MA 2001) is Litigation Associate at Gardiner Koch Weisberg & Wrona in Chicago, Illinois.

Marisa Klein (BS 2012; current MA student) is SEM Team Lead with Marquette Group, a firm in the digital marketing industry.

Chris Killian (BS 2014) is Regional Account Manager at UnitedHealth Group in Columbia, MO.

Tom Kruckmeyer (MA 1977) recently co-wrote a paper titled "College Athletes Everywhere Just Wanna Be Free." For more information, go to www.bigcollege.sportseconomics.com.

Vikram Kumar (MA 2008) and his wife have expanded their family. They are now the proud parents of Laya.



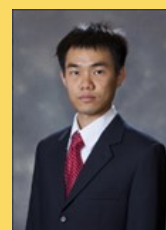
Ryan Lane (BS 2009) is a Financial Analyst at Vantage Credit Union in St. Louis.

Andy Leindecker (MA 2012) holds the position of Competitive Intelligence Manager at GroupM Next.

Jennifer Lewis (BS 2008; MA 2011) is now an Economist in the Office of Administration - Budget and Planning Division, State of Missouri. From 1978 to 2014, **Tom Kruckmeyer** (MA 1977) held this same job.

Jeremy Loscheider (MA 2007) is Consultant - Data Analyst/Developer at Panera Bread.

Trung Ly (BS 2011; MA 2013) just finished his second year of his Economics PhD at Notre Dame and is working on his second year paper. He stopped by the Department in May to say hello.



Terrence Madlinger (BS 2013) is now Manager of Corporate Analysis at Entercom in the Philadelphia area.

Marcela Manjarrez-Williams (BS 1998) is now Senior Vice President and Chief Communications Officer at Centene. In her new position, she will oversee strategic communications and report directly to the Chairman/CEO of Centene. Most recently, from 2012 to 2014, she held the position of Vice President, Public Affairs, at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.



Jason Mannello (BS 2002; MA 2004) is now Vice Chair - Life Sciences & Technology Services Group at RubinBrown LLP in Clayton.

Melissa Maxwell (BS/MA 2015) has taken a position as an Economic Analyst with PJM Interconnection. This organization coordinates the transmission of electricity for over 60 million people. For three years Melissa will rotate through all of the departments



in the organization, spending nine months each year in one of the major departments: Planning, Markets, and Operations. She will then take a permanent position in the department where she is best matched.

Kirk McLean (BS 2010) and his wife Susan are the proud parents of Davis. They have moved to Louisville where Kirk is now a Retirement Analyst with Mercer. (Mercer is a wholly owned subsidiary of Marsh & McLennan Companies.)



Nick Michniok (MA 2012) is now Finance Manager at Megastar Holdings in Denver.

Tom Minogue (BS 1976) is President of the Chancellor's Council at UMSL. Minogue, who is chairman of Thompson Coburn, LLP law firm, received his law degree from Harvard University. As quoted in the December 7, 2014, *UMSL Daily*, "It was a very easy 'yes' for me," Minogue says. "UMSL was in the right place at the right time for me in the 1970s, and I figured if I could give back to the university in some way that would be a great thing. The university was the foundation of my life both from a family and career perspective." Tom has the distinction of being the very first UMSL|Economics alum to appear on a University billboard!



Vania Nedeva (BS 2007) works in Accounting at Enterprise Holdings.

Ann Neff (MA 2004) has been promoted to Finance Manager at Save-A-Lot.



Gregory Nelson (BS/MA 2014) took a full-time position as Research Analyst at DZT (former Cassidy Turley), upon completion of his internship there.

Dan Nolle (MA 1976) has recently retired from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington D.C. He and his wife Monica plan to split time between D.C. and Monica's home country of Argentina.

Phillip Prichard (BS 2010) is now Senior Account Executive at Risk Consulting Partners.

Victor Potopov (BS 1998; MA 1999) is now Director, Big Data Innovation, at Rogers Communications in Toronto.

David Rando (BS 2011) is now Account Services Representative I at Graybar.

Laura (Darby) Rose (BS 2009; MA 2012) is now Senior Demand Planning Analyst at Mallinkrodt Pharmaceuticals.

Matthew Rose (MA 2012) is now Senior Analyst—Demand Planning at Anheuser-Busch InBev.

David Roskin (BS 2010) is now Product Control and Logistics at Faurecia.

Richard Schmidt (BS 1990) is now System Medical Director of TeamHealth. TeamHealth provides emergency physician and provider services to nine BJC HealthCare sites.

Ijlal Shamsi (BS 2005) is Owner & Director of Operations at Janper Home Deco Private Limited.

Tricia Stout (BS 2007) and her husband Ryan have expanded their family. Charlie now has little sister Georgia! Tricia is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones.



Athena Theodorou-Theophanous (MA 2004) is Vice President - Investment Banking Division, EMEA IBD Management at Morgan Stanley in London.

Emily Trevathan (BS/MA 2005) is Owner & Founder of Twisted Juniper Yoga in Hannibal, MO.

Neil R. Wiggins (BS 2003, MA 2004) is Senior Banking Structure Coordinator at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Neil performs competitive analysis for all banking merger, acquisition and other structure applications received by the St. Louis Fed. He also manages CASSIDI@, the St. Louis Fed's banking structure analysis website.



Jonathan Young (BS 2009) is now Manager, Planning and Analysis, at Lumiere Place Casino and Hotels.

Craig Young (BS 2013) is now Consultant at Daughterty Business Solutions.

Alumni Board News

Recent comings and goings: Gene Edmiston (BS 1991; MA 1993) will replace John Kovac (BS 2009). Many thanks to John for his extended service! He has served since 2007, when the Board was first established by Lea Kosnik.

Continuing Board members are Josh Ulrich (BS/MA 2005) and Lauren (Block) Dickens (BS/MA 2008). As a result of suggestions from the Board, you can now follow the activities of the department at UMSL|Economics on Twitter! We have also adopted the Board's suggestions and revamped our recruiting materials for new majors.

Please know, you don't have to be a Board member to offer suggestions! Please contact any member of the Department to share your ideas.

Events

Join us for the next **Annual Fall Picnic** on **Sunday, September 20, 2015 from 12-3 pm** at the **Irv Zeid Citizen's Park Pavilion at 9100 Old Bonhomme Rd in Olivette.**

Fall Picnic 2014



L-R Tom Ireland, Anne Winkler, Kathy Ireland



L-R Jaevin Park, grad student Hyerim Park, guest Kirill Dobkin with grad student Melissa Maxwell, grad student Kam Singh, grad student Ken Bao



L-R Laura (Darby) Rose (BS 2009; MA 2012), junior Tim Side, Matt Rose (MA 2012), Maggie Evans (BS/MA 2014)



L-R David Rose, undergrad student Audrey Fischer, Audrey's father Robert Fischer



L-R Michael Allison, Don Kridel, Herb Werner, Josh Ulrich (BS/MA 2005), Emilio Pagoulatos



L-R Grad student Marisa Klein, Maggie Evans (BS/MA 2014), grad student Santina Grzac, grad student John Fischer, Santina's guest Ryan Davis

A big thank you to William Rogers, who coordinated the annual picnic on September 28th, did all the shopping & prepared most of the side dishes. Thanks also to those who brought extra sides & treats.



Master BBQ chef Don Kridel at work—grilling through the years...



L-R Don, Herb Werner, Bob Sorensen

1997



2007



2014

Alumni Party 2015

Thanks to all the Alumni, Faculty, Graduate Students and Friends who joined us for the **Annual Alumni Party** on April 17th at the Market Pub House in the Delmar Loop. Turnout was wonderful and included alums from as far away as Canada! Over 60 faculty, former faculty, alumni and students attended! A record-setting event! Mark your calendar for April 15, 2016 (yes, tax day)! For more photos (and larger versions), go to <http://www.umsi.edu/~econ/Alumni/events-photo-gallery.html>.

L-R Maggie Evans (BS/MA 2014), grad students Marisa Klein, Santina Grzac



L-R Tom Ireland, Dave Tucek (MA 1976), Anna Tucek, Kathy Ireland

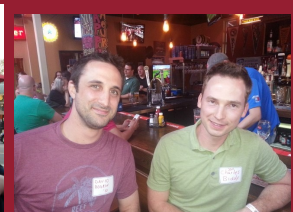
(Center) Gene Edmiston (BS 1991; MA 1993) with his former interns John Gamel (MA 2006) (L), Ken Brockland (BS/MA 2005) (R)



Yveta (Travnickova) Fortova (BS/BA 2004), Geetanjali Gamel (BS/MA 2006)



L-R Greg Nelson (BS/MA 2014), Steve Most (BS 2012), Steve's wife Elaine Most, Maggie Evans (BS/MA 2014), grad student Marisa Klein



David Roskin (BS 2010), Charles Biddy (BS 2011)



L-R Grad student Hyerim Park, student Tobi Wilkins, Don Kridel & grad student Melissa Maxwell



L-R Greg Aubuchon (BS 1992; MA 2010 & Adjunct Instructor), Robert Sorensen, Bill Nieman (BA 1991; MA 1994)

Alumni Party 2015 (cont'd.)



L-R Becca Bryan, David Bryan (MA 2010), Josh Ulrich (BS/MA 2005 & Alumni Board member), Clinton Greene



L-R Victor Potapov (BS 1998; MA 1999), Don Kridel, Bob Sorensen, Gene Edmiston (BS 1991; MA 1993), Steve Majesky (BS 1998; MA 2000)



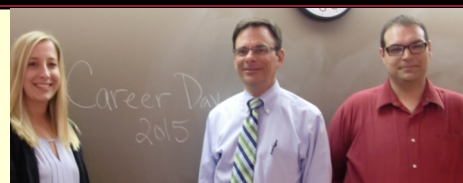
L-R Jackson Suhre (BS 2013), Greg Nelson (BS/MA 2014), Alex Tuchel-Veyhl (BS/MA 2015), Craig Young (BS 2013), Aaron Lombard (BS 2013 & returning grad student), Quentin McGuffey (BS 2013)



L-R Pete Chang (BS 2006), Geetanjali Gamel (BS/MA 2006), Ken Brockland (BS/MA 2005), Ade Fanegan (BS 2005), John Gamel (MA 2006)

Career Day 2015

Many thanks to the three alums who offered their time and advice on April 13th to current students: **Elise Barry** (BS 2012), Project Analyst at CrowdSource; **Richard Baniak** (BS 1986, MA 1995), Divisional CFO, Advanced Products at Boeing Company; and **Quentin McGuffey** (BS 2013), Securities Operations Specialist at Wells Fargo Advisors.



Departmental Giving — July 2014-June 2015

Alumni giving supports the department's teaching, research, and outreach activities. Among other things, the department uses gifts to fund scholarships (read about Bruce Welz's recent gift which fully funded the Robert Loring Allen scholarship on Page 2), to award prizes for essay competitions, to employ and train students as research assistants, and to support the research of our own economics faculty. The recipients of recent department awards and scholarships are listed on Page 8.

You can donate to the Economic Department (an unrestricted gift) or to a specific scholarship in the Department. A number of years ago, several alumni generously established the Economics Alumni Scholarship. With your help, the annual award given out from this scholarship can be increased. In addition, former faculty member Emilio Pagoulatos recently gave an initial gift to establish a future scholarship in the name of Bob Sorensen – the Robert Sorensen Scholarship.

We'd like to thank those of you who have been giving so generously over the years. For those of you who have never considered making a gift to the Department, we hope you will consider doing so in the future. With your help we can do even more for our students.

Gifts to the Department

Barber, Keith Robert	Nesslein, Thomas S.
Boeing Company	Nieman, William
Crowley, Matthew G.	Perkins, Robert Earl
Daffron, Mark G.	Petersen, J. Scott
Flowers, Barbara	Speicher, Brian
Gannon III, James B.	Stephens, James E.
Herrera, Roy	Stohs, Stephen
Ireland, Thomas R.	Suiter, Mary
Kridel, Donald J.	Vehige, Eric
McCorkle, Sarapage	Winkler, Anne E.

Economics Alumni Scholarship Gifts

Baniak, Richard
Boeing Company
Express Scripts Foundation
Frimel, David Eric
Marcanik, Edward
Nolle, Daniel E.
Phares, Kathleen A.
Stone, Arthur H.

Robert Sorensen Scholarship Gifts

Pagoulatos, Emilio

Robert Loring Allen Memorial Scholarship in Economics

Welz, Bruce Allen

How can you help?

You can give online at the link below. Designate your gift is for us by typing "Economics Department" in the "Other" field.

<https://fusion10.ums1.edu/devsystems/firstdatagateway/give.cfm> (Press Control & click on link.)

Or, if you prefer, you can donate by mail. Please make your check payable to the UMSL Department of Economics, c/o Anne Winkler, 408 SSB, One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121.

Gifts made to the Economics Department are tax deductible. In addition to our alumni, we welcome business and corporate gifts. We appreciate gifts in any amount.



Current Student Success

2014 AWARDS FOR BEST PAPERS

Simon Kuznets Award

Christal Wanjun Zhu (graduate)
Mark Amoroso (undergraduate)

Thorstein Veblen Award

Dean Obermark (graduate)
Jennifer Slosar (graduate)

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Elizabeth M. Clayton Memorial Scholarship

Brandon Giesege (AY 2016)
Abigail Wood (AY 2016)
Melissa Maxwell (AY 2015)

Sharon G. Levin Economics Scholarship

Hagen Montano (AY 2016)
Elise Dye (AY 2015)

Economics Alumni Scholarship

Matthew Segrist (AY 2015 & 2016)

Robert Loring Allen Memorial Scholarship

Cody Rabe (AY 2016)
Henry Heyburn (AY 2015)

RECENT GRADUATES

SUMMER 2014

Undergraduate Degrees

Burgess, Kevin (BS)
Czarnecki, Tyler (BS)
Kashlan, Saalem Sam (BA)
Killian, Christopher (BS)
Nelson, Gregory (BS)
Stiles, William (BS)

Graduate Degrees:

Nelson, Gregory (MA)

FALL 2014

Undergraduate Degrees

Bjerke, Alex (BA)
Brayton, Jeffrey (BS)
Clair, Antonio (BS)
Forsythe, Brett (BS)
Hinton, Hannah (BS)
Kouranova, Alla (BS)
Minnis, Valarie (BS)
Nakada, Shiori (BS)
Placial, Scott (BS)
Wecke, Steven (BS)
Williams, Seth (BS)

Graduate Degrees

Zhu, Christal Wanjun (MA)

SPRING 2015

Undergraduate Degrees

Basic, Lejla (BS)
Book, Nicholas (BS)
Dye, Elise (BS)
Hoeftle, Nicholas (BS)
Laxton, Brandon (BS)
Malik, Haris (BS)
Mawyin, Freddy (BA)
Regan, Connor (BS)
Tuchel-Veyhl, Alex (BS)
Vidal, Omobolaji (BS)
Wallis, Keith (BA)

Graduate Degrees

Maxwell, Melissa (MA)
Tuchel-Veyhl, Alex (MA)

Certificate in Applied Econometrics and Data Analysis

Buckley, Stephanie
Fischer, John
Grzac, Santina
Langrial, Raheel
Suhre, Jackson
Tuchel-Veyhl, Alex

Certificate in Actuarial Studies

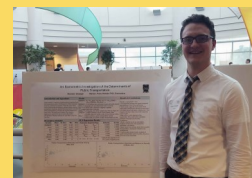
Dye, Elise
Grzac, Santina

Public Policy Administration Graduate Certificate in Policy and Program Evaluation

Maxwell, Melissa

PAPER & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Brandon Giesege (current "2+3" student) presented his paper titled "An Econometric Investigation of the Determinants of Public Transportation" at the UMSL Undergraduate Research Symposium in May 2015.



Two other economics students presented posters, albeit for other departments. **Hagen Montano** presented a poster titled "Economic Perception and Voter Turnout" for the Department of Political Science and **Sara Gill** presented a poster titled "Orthographic-Phonographic Integration in Adults with Varying Reading Skills" for the Department of Psychological Sciences.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS

Max Gillman taught Historical Perspectives on Monetary Policy for the Honors College in spring 2015.

William Rogers offered Data Analysis with R: Applications for the Social Sciences and Business in summer 2015. Over 30 students signed up for the course.

Looking to Hire?

Let Anne Winkler, Department Chair, (awinkler@umsl.edu) know about internships and job opportunities, and she will work with faculty to identify high-performing students.

Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education (CEEE)

In July 2015 CEEE returned to its home in the Department of Economics. For many years the Center was part of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS), UMSL's Continuing Education unit. When PCS decentralized earlier in 2015, the Center gladly became a part of the Department again. Throughout its long history, the Center and Department have been intertwined. Under the leadership of then Chair **Elizabeth Clayton** and Prof. **Joseph McKenna**, efforts began in 1976 to create an Economic Education Program in the Department to expand its impact in the community and increase economic and financial literacy. In 1978 the new program launched, and Prof. McKenna was named Acting Director. In fall 1978, Prof. **William Walstad**, a new economics faculty member, was designated as the program's first Director. The University officially granted "center status" to the emerging program in 1979. Since its inception, the Center has been affiliated with the Missouri Council on Economic Education and National Council for Economic Education (now known as the Council for Economic Education—CEE).



Elizabeth Clayton



Joseph McKenna



William Walstad

As the Center expanded its outreach, the need for more staff grew. Elaine Coulson joined the Center in September 1979 as Curriculum Director. **Sarapage McCorkle** (MA 1971) joined the staff in



1987 CEEE Staff: L-R
David Williams,
Sarapage McCorkle,
Mary Suiter

1981 and later became director in 1984. **David Williams** (MA 1984) joined the Center as the Stock Market Game Coordinator, became Assistant Director in 1984, and remained in that post until 1991.

Mary Suiter (BA 1985) began working at the Center in 1986 as Coordinator of School Services.

During 1990-91 **Barb Flowers** (MA 1999) joined the Center and Mary Suiter became Associate Director. Karen Hubbard, who is currently a program specialist and adjunct instructor, joined the Center in 1996. In 2004 **Mary Suiter** became Center Director, followed by **Barb Flowers** in 2006. With a wealth of expertise in consumer economics, **Sharon Laux** joined the Center from University of Missouri Extension in 2007. She served as Interim Director in 2009 and 2010 and is now Associate Director. **Grant Black** (BS 1992, MA 1994) became Center Director in fall 2010.



Sharon Laux



Grant Black

The Center has become a leading source of training, resources, and information for educators, students, professionals, and the community. Since its beginning in 1978, the Center has trained thousands of teachers and impacted thousands of students, as well as reaching countless others throughout the region. It has produced numerous educational resources used across the nation. In 1988 the Center was recognized as one of the top five centers of economic education in the nation by CEE. In recognition of its ongoing innovative work, the Center received the Albert Beekhuis Award for Centers of Excellence in Economic Education from CEE in 2003. In 2012 a curriculum co-authored by **Sharon Laux** and published by CEE, *Financial Fitness for Life®*, Grades 9-12, won the Excellence in Financial Literacy Education (EIFLE) Award in the Education Program of the Year in the Children's Saving and Investing category.

With the Center now formally reunited with the Economics Department, great things are to come!

Faculty News

Susan Feigenbaum was awarded the title of Curators' Teaching Professor this spring. She is grateful for the many letters of support she received for her nomination.

Tom Ireland, Professor Emeritus, is continuing to consult for attorneys and has continued to publish papers in the area of forensic economics, the most recent of which was "A New Class of Hybrid-Tort Actions Based on Recent FELA Decisions?" in the *Journal of Legal Economics*, Volume 21 (1). He has two additional papers scheduled for future publication. He is also finding time to travel, with upcoming trips to Albuquerque, New Mexico, Portland, Oregon and Spokane, Washington.

Lea-Rachel Kosnik continued to publish, teach, and attend conferences this year. Perhaps even more importantly, she spent a good deal of time advocating for women's issues over the past year, helping to found and become the faculty advisor for the department's new Women In Economics (WIE) club. She also published a book (*The Other Shakespeare*) which asks the question: What if Shakespeare had been born a woman? What would her life have been like, and would she have been as successful as the William Shakespeare we all know today?

Don Kridel is currently interested in automating analytics and applying econometric techniques to real-time decision-making, especially as it applies to placement of mobile advertising and for fraud detection. Don's term as Chair of the Department ends in July 2015; he will continue to serve as Director of Graduate Studies for the department. During 2015, Don presented two papers in Hawaii (Maui and Kauai) related to model automation. On the personal side, Don visited Austin for his birthday this year; the Texas weather presented him the opportunity to drive back (13 hours!) to give his applied econometrics final. Don will be on sabbatical for 2016.

Sharon Levin, Professor Emeritus, is still getting grants and doing research. She is the PI on an NIH Grant titled "Investigating the Scientific Workforce in the Biomedical and Behavioral Sciences." Also on the grant are Anne Winkler and Michael Allison.

William Rogers and Anne Winkler continue their research on the impact of housing and labor market conditions on household size and composition. Over the summer

they will add homelessness to the analysis as they team up with Patrick Fowler from Washington University.

Dave Rose recently finished his sabbatical and continues to write his second book, *Why Culture Matters Most*, which should be finished by the end of the year. He is now also a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. His son, Matt, is now at AB-InBev. His son, Chris, is now at UNI-Group. His daughter-in-law, Laura (Darby) Rose, is now at Mallinckrodt. All are making the most of their economics training.

"Old Soldiers Never Die" **Bob Sorensen** is now officially retired and an Emeritus Professor. Despite this, he remains engaged with the department. Last fall he taught Intermediate Micro for the Department. This coming fall he will teach an "Economics Bootcamp" for prospective MBA students at UMSL. He reports that in his free time he is honing his guitar skills. He has managed to learn a number of songs just as they were played by the recording artists. He cautions everyone not to get their hopes up.

His repertoire currently contains no songs recorded after the late seventies.

Congratulations to **Brian Speicher**, who has chosen smart eating and daily runs, to lose over 150 pounds since last fall! Taking control of his health has been motivating for us all.

Anne Winkler is now starting her second 3-year term as board member of the Committee on the Status of Women in Economics (CSWE), a committee of the American Economic Association (<https://www.aeaweb.org/committees/CSWE/>). Anne, Sharon Levin, and co-author Paula Stephan of Georgia State, recently published the last of five refereed papers on IT and higher education; this research was funded by a Mellon Grant. In other news, Anne is happy to report that her younger son just graduated from high school and she is now a proud parent of two college students. Her older son is majoring in ... economics!

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The Department of Economics continues its effort to "go green." In the future, we would like to send fewer paper copies of the newsletter. If you are still receiving this through regular mail but have an e-mail address we can use instead, please let us know what it is by calling Judy at 314-516-5353 or emailing her at catesj@umsl.edu. Thank you!

The Economics Resource Center



L-R Michael Thomas (MA 2005), Yvetta (Travnickova) Fortova (BS/BA 2004)

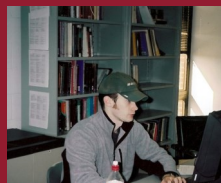
Then....



L-R Dane McDonald (BS 2008), Yang Liu (MA 2008), Lauren (Block) Dickens (BS/MA 2008)

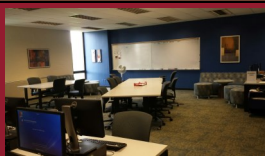


Majana (Burazovic) Reis (BS/MA 2005)



Josh Ulrich (BS/MA 2005)

...and Now



Thanks to a 2013 renovation, a beautiful new updated ERC was available the past year for students to gather, work on projects, study & meet with economics tutors.

What makes an UMSL|Economics education unique?

Strong student-faculty relationships, peer tutoring, attentive advisors, and coursework that helps students get where they want to be, whether through the BA, BS, BS/MA or MA programs, the Certificate in Data Analysis and Econometrics, the Certificate in Actuarial Studies, or the Graduate Certificate in Policy and Program Evaluation.

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