Alumni News

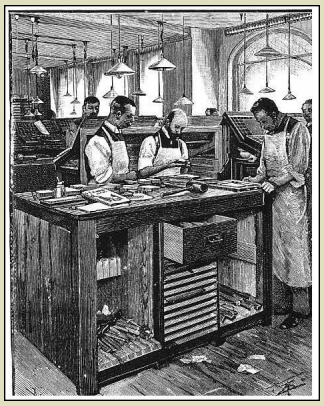
Department of Economics

Indiana University of Pennsylvania ☙ Indiana, PA 15705–1087

Issue 58, Fall 2015

Ode to Keith Hall (aka: Laboratory and Demonstration School): An Economist's View

By Dr. Willard W. Radell, Jr.



Keith Hall

The imminent demolition of Keith Hall after 76 years of use induces reflection on some of the lore and economic history of Keith Hall. Although the namesake, John Keith, laid a foundation for Indiana to grow from a normal school into the Commonwealth's largest state-owned university (until 2014 when IUP was passed by West Chester), Keith Hall's outward image was that of an elementary/middle school. Locker-lined corridors (encouraging Dewey-esque self-reliance), "Boys" and "Girls" tags on restroom doors, retracted basketball boards and hoops visible from the East when the sun is right, and labor-intensive glazed doors for common-sense transparency and monitoring in a pre-Title IX era, made it clear that "Keith" was originally built as a "school." After "Indiana State College" became Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1965, "Keith University School" was ready for transition from a school to a university "hall," which happened in 1969. Offices were transformed, and there was an intellectual transformation as the College of Education vacated and the History, Political Science, Sociology/Anthropology and Economics departments moved in. But the classrooms, halls (with lockers), and restrooms remained Keith University "School." Like Mary Shelley's fictional creature, Keith Hall lumbered into the 21st century with a "university" brain and a "school" body.

Originally built in 1939 to provide a lab/demonstration school that would develop and disseminate best practices among teachers-to-be, the primary motivation for the school has broader economic significance. From 1929 to 1933 real GDP had decreased every year. Beginning in 1933 the newly-elected Roosevelt administration began policies to prevent monetary shrinkage (through the commercial banking system and Treasury transactions designed to avoid sterilization of gold inflows) and to promote fiscal stimulus through increases in transfer payments and public works expenditures. By 1939 real GDP had surpassed its 1929 level (*with an interruption in 1937/38 after Roosevelt erroneously tried to balance the budget with expenditure cuts while the FED was tightening money supply and payroll taxes were collected for the first time*). But labor markets (always the last to recover) were still showing significant unemployment, so the WPA (Works Progress Administration) was still (in the late 1930s) funding public works. In essence, the Laboratory and Demonstration School in Indiana was a means to inject spending into the economy at a time when the economy had significant excess capacity to produce.

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Editor:

Dr. Nicholas Karatjas

Ode to Keith Hall: An Economist's View (cont.)

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Keith as Money Pump:

Most readers are familiar with the "trickle-down" versus "pump-priming" approaches to economic stimulus. Trickle-down proposes to stimulate the economy by tax-cuts biased toward the wealthy who have high saving rates that drive increases in investment, thus increasing aggregate expenditure, boosting incomes, thereby increasing employment and consumer spending. Pump-priming directly injects income by increases in government expenditures on public works like roads, dams, bridges, hospitals and schools; by increased transfer payments to middle and lower income people; and, with middle and lower income tax cuts, to quickly put after tax disposable income into the hands of people with high marginal propensities to consume.

The Laboratory and Demonstration School at "State Teachers College (STC) at Indiana" was pump-priming. The theory was that if there were brick, steel, cement, …, and saw mills operating at far less than capacity, and if there were carpenters, plumbers, steel workers, steam and pipe fitters, plasterers, glazers, … without jobs, then America would be stronger and richer if the semi-idle factories and the un-employed workers were united around contracts from Uncle Sam to build a Lab and Demonstration school in Indiana. The State Teachers College at Indiana could put the new building to good use, but the primary reason for its completion was to serve as a vehicle for Uncle Sam to inject income into the Indiana community. The high-grade oak mill work and fine quality brass hardware in Keith 130 represented an increase in public wealth as STC at Indiana added to its physical plant, but also represented the recovery of GDP as numerous private contractors were paid for the materials used to finish the project. After the macroeconomic gravity of Treasury Secretary Morgenthau's premature attempt to balance the budget in 1937 caused a sharp re-recession, Keith Hall became key for restored recovery as "…W.P.A. rolls were expanded [and] public construction was rapidly brought to a new peak…. *(Henry Morgenthau, Report, December 1, 1939)*." How many of the tens of thousands of principles of macroeconomics students in Keith Hall caught the irony of learning techniques of fiscal stimulus inside a "money-pump?"

Lore:

John Keith's Picture

John Keith's Picture: Wherever you stand, he's looking at you.

Nobel Prize Winners: Several Nobel Prize winners spoke and chatted with faculty and students in Keith Hall over the years including the first American to be awarded the economics "Nobel," Paul Samuelson.

Record Setting Roaches: Students in Keith 130 learned to zip their backpacks. Several exams over the years were disrupted by single, very large roaches setting off diagonally across the main floor. The movement of students in response has been described as the parting of the Red Sea.

Ghosts: If there ever were ghosts, Keith Hall would be the place. Several evening classes back in the 1980s were interrupted by intermittent power outages that a night custodian attributed to "the ghost of John Keith who is not happy with what he is hearing." And there were the strange clanking and rapping noises heard after 11 p.m. not heard ever at other times of the day ….

Being #3 for renovation for many decades: Because of Keith's perennial presence on a list for renovation, it was often neglected for normal maintenance. In recent years more was done to improve lighting and painting (both much appreciated) but Keith's last 20 years have not been its best.

Japanese Maples: A sad loss in the demolition will be the most beautiful stand of Japanese Maples anywhere near campus. They were mature when I first set foot in Keith Hall in 1981 and they are healthy now, in this, their last year's sleep.

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Reflections on My IUP Education
By Mr. Joseph Meskey

Editor's Note: Over the summer, I ran into Joe Meskey while he was visiting the campus. I asked him to write an article for this issue of the newsletter. Joe is currently the Director of Information Technology at the Office of Indigent Defense Services in Durham, NC.

Like many new students starting their college careers at IUP, as a freshman in 1975 I was rocked by the many sudden and dramatic changes in my life. Coping with tough college classes, finding my way around a big campus in the cold and blustery Indiana weather, and mapping out some sort of academic plan for myself were tasks that overwhelmed me. I had arrived at IUP with very jumbled academic and career goals. Coming from a family of factory workers, my siblings and I were sent off to college with little more direction from our folks than the admonition, "Stay out of trouble and don't flunk out!"

Joe Meskey and Rex

I started as a sociology major but by my sophomore year I was waffling around and was considering switching to history, English or psychology, but I really had no clue as to what I should be studying. It was then when a chance encounter with IUP's Economics program forever changed my life. That year, my advisor suggested I take an economics course to help complete my social science requirements. When I did, I immediately encountered some of the finest university instructors I've come to know anywhere. Against the warnings of all my roommates and friends, I found myself compelled to sign on to a major that they considered one of the very toughest ones on campus. I quickly found the program to be incredibly challenging but equally intriguing. I was hooked and there was no turning back!

I'm sure many of you alumni will remember how difficult Dr. Stonebraker's macro classes and Dr. Walker's micro classes were. But as tough as they and their colleagues were on us, I'm sure you will agree that these were academic professionals of extraordinary quality. Their lectures and exams were tough as nails, but they had a compassionate and caring approach to students outside of the classroom that was equally extraordinary. If you were willing to work, they would go out of their way to help you succeed and to plan a sound academic career.

Now, I'll be the first to admit that the program wasn't always fun. As an impatient 19-year-old anxious to enjoy IUP's partying scene, I whined all the time about having to learn abstract concepts like IS-LM models, isoquants and Cobb-Douglas production functions ("When will we ever use this stuff in the real world?!"). What I didn't realize at the time was that our instructors were **not** just teaching us Economics. They were teaching us to think logically, to identify and quantify the costs and benefits of any action, and to build models of any process or phenomenon to gain a better understanding of its dynamics. These are quantitative and analytic skills that equip students to succeed in **any** career path, and IUP's faculty were truly outstanding in encouraging and enabling us to learn these skills. Throughout my career, I have continually fallen back on the excellent foundation in analysis and reasoning that IUP's Economics program provided me.

After I graduated with my B.A. in Economics, I quickly found that this foundation had prepared me well for a wide variety of careers. I went on to earn a master's degree in Economics at Penn State, and subsequently worked as a quantitative analyst for several federal and state government agencies and two private corporations. I also spent fifteen years in higher education, teaching Economics and information technology at East Carolina University and Barton College. My current job is that of IT Director for the North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services (a division of the North Carolina State court system; see http://www.ncids.org).

That I've done pretty well in a wide variety of career positions is no doubt due to the excellent training in analysis that I received in IUP's Economics program. I feel I owe the department a debt I can never repay. I'm guessing many of you may feel the same way. If so, I strongly encourage you to support the Economics Department in any way you can. Please consider contributing to the department's various scholarships. The Economics Department got you off to a running start in a very competitive world. Give the next generation of students the same opportunity.

Scholarships: How You Can Help

As current economics students juggle financing their college education with other responsibilities, they often look towards scholarships to help fill the gap. Through the support of generous alumni, faculty and staff members, emeriti professors, and friends, three endowed scholarships are currently available to current economics students:

0505 – Karl McDermott Scholarship for Economics
0449 – Robert J. Stonebraker Scholarship for Economics
0359 – Donald A. Walker Economics Scholarship

The Donald A. Walker Economics Scholarship and the Robert J. Stonebraker Scholarship for Economics were established to provide a lasting tribute to acknowledge the impact of these (emeriti) professors on economics students during their tenure at IUP. Scholarships can also be established by alumni. Dr. Karl McDermott set up an endowed scholarship to recognize the impact of his IUP education on his professional career and to provide scholarship assistance to future economics students. These funds will continue to supply annual scholarships for IUP students for years to come. However, to increase the impact of the annual scholarship payout, additional donations to these funds are needed. Your gift will assist in increasing the annual scholarship payout. You can support future economics students by designating your gift to any of these scholarship funds. Go to the IUP secure on-line giving form at www.iup.edu/giveagift to make your gift now. Be sure to select the "specific area at IUP" option and indicate your fund designation (see account numbers above) in the "other" area on the form.

For more information about how you can support one of these economics scholarships or to discuss the process of establishing your own scholarship, please contact: Chrystie Raymond, Development Officer, at (724) 357-1961 or chrystie.raymond@iup.edu.

I would like to support scholarships for IUP students in the Economics Department by making a gift to the Foundation for IUP.

Name(s):_____ IUP ID (if known):_@_____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number:_____
Email:_____ circle one: Home Cell

Please accept my support to the following scholarship for Economics:

0505 – Karl McDermott Scholarship for Economics
0449 – Robert J. Stonebraker Scholarship for Economics
0359 – Donald A. Walker Economics Scholarship

With my gift or pledge to the Foundation for IUP of $_____, to be paid by:
___ Check, made payable to the **FOUNDATION FOR IUP**

___ A pledge, payable in ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 consecutive month installments

To make a one-time or recurring gift online, visit *www.iup.edu/giveagift*.

Please mail this form along with payment, if applicable to: Foundation for IUP, Sutton Hall, Room G1, 1011 South Drive, Indiana, PA 15705-1046. Or, to pay by credit card visit *www.iup.edu/stonebraker*.

_____ *I prefer not to have my name included in IUP's online donor listing (please initial).*

The Foundation for IUP is a 501(c)(3) organization; gifts to The Foundation are tax deductible as per IRS regulations. The official registration and financial information of the Foundation for Indiana University of Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. For calls which originate outside of Pennsylvania, the telephone number is 717-783-1720. Registration does not imply endorsement.

/C2015/SUBS/HONR/AO16

Faculty Notes

Dr. Yaya Sissoko presented three research papers at the Pennsylvania Economic Association (PEA) annual conference at Penn State-Berks, Reading, PA, on May 28-30, 2015. The papers were titled: "Explaining the Flows of Foreign Investments to Emerging Markets: The Case of South Africa" (co-authored with Inoussa Boubacar), "The Change in Workforce Patterns on a County Level in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 1997-2013" (co-authored with Brian Sloboda), and "Trade Openness, FDI and Economic Growth: Empirical Causality Evidence from Singapore and Malaysia." In addition, Dr. Sissoko also led the fifth annual Best Undergraduate Student Paper Contest at the PEA conference.

Drs. Stephanie M. Brewer Jozefowicz and **Yaya Sissoko** attended the Spring Pennsylvania Economic Association Board of Directors meetings held at Penn State-Berks in May 2015.

Dr. Stephanie M. Brewer Jozefowicz was reelected Secretary of the Pennsylvania Economic Association at the Annual Conference held at Penn State-Berks in May 2015.

Dr. David B. Yerger's article, co-authored with Dr. Amber L. Stephenson (School of Management-Union Graduate College) and Dr. Alex Heckert (IUP Department of Sociology), titled "College Choice and the University Brand: Exploring the Consumer Decision Framework" was published in *Higher Education: The International Journal of Higher Education Research*, July 2015, Vol. 70, No. 1.

A recent publication by **Drs. Christopher R. Jeffords**, **Alexi S. Thompson**, and **David B. Yerger** explores the relationship between nonrenewable resource extraction and changes in industry-specific employment. They embed a simple nonrenewable resource extraction model within a lake model of industry-specific employment, where flows to (from) employment from (to) unemployment depend on the attachment (separation) rate. Using data on coal production and employment in the U.S. as a guide, simple calculations provide a range of years beyond 2013 when it is expected that peak employment will be reached in Marcellus Shale, and the results suggest that employment gains will likely continue for at least a decade. The paper was published in the July 2015 issue of the *International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy*.

Dr. Donald A. Walker (with Jan van Daal), emeritus professor, former chairperson of the Department of Economics, and distinguished University Professor, recently published a definitive English edition of *Elements of Theoretical Economics: Or, The Theory of Social Wealth*, by Léon Walras, with Cambridge University Press (2014). Dr. Walker, who taught in the Department of Economics for 27 years, wrote the extensive introduction that provides the context for Walras' landmark work and that reveals why the third edition of Elements is logically more complete than the fourth edition.

A new working paper by **Dr. Christopher R. Jeffords** and Dr. Joshua Gellers (Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Florida) was listed in the *Social Science Research Network's Top Ten Recent Papers in Environmental Networks and Justice*. Dr. Gellers will present the paper at the 2016 International Studies Association Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Brandon C. Vick published a study titled "Analyzing Rural Versus Urban Differences in Career Dissatisfaction and Plans to Leave Among Pennsylvanian Physicians" in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Rural Health*. This project was sponsored by a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a legislative agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

(continued on page 6)

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Faculty Notes (cont.)

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Dr. Brandon C. Vick published a study titled "Career Satisfaction of Pennsylvanian Dentists and Dental Hygienists and Their Plans to Leave Direct Patient Care" in a forthcoming issue of *The Journal of Public Health Dentistry*. This project also resulted from a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

As part of its Mini Research Grant Program, the Center for Rural Pennsylvania awarded **Dr. Brandon C. Vick** $15,000 to analyze survey data for four health workforces in Pennsylvania – namely physicians, physician assistants, dentists, and dental hygienists – to identify rural/urban differences in the workforce makeup, career satisfaction, and plans to leave patient care. Dr. Vick, who is also a Research Associate with the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Research and Training Institute (MAARTI), served as the primary investigator for the project. **Dr. David B. Yerger** and Margaret Gagel, a senior Operations Management major and Honors Program student, assisted in the research.

Dr. Christopher Jeffords explores the temporal effects of constitutional environmental rights on access to water and sanitation in a forthcoming paper in the *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*. This paper was originally prepared for the Scholar-in-Residence in Global Environmental Constitutionalism program at Delaware Law School (Widener University), in which Dr. Jeffords participated during Spring 2015.

Dr. David B. Yerger presented "Exploring Cross-Border Natural Gas Price Dynamics: Pennsylvania's Impact Upon Canadian Provinces" at the International Academy of Business and Economics (IABE) Conference and "Is Ontario's Electricity Cost Disadvantage Impacting Its Manufacturing Shipments?" at the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) Conference, both held in Las Vegas, NV, in October.

Dr. Brandon C. Vick attended meetings on Intellectual Property Issues for Small Online Businesses, held in Austin, TX, in October.

Dr. Yaya Sissoko presented the "Current Account Sustainability of the ASEAN Countries" (**co-authored with Dr. James Jozefowicz)** at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Association of Business, Economics and Technology (NABET) held in State College, PA, on October 22 and 23, 2015.

Drs. Stephanie Brewer Jozefowicz, **James Jozefowicz**, and **Yaya Sissoko** attended the Fall Pennsylvania Economic Association Board of Directors meeting held at the Penn Stater in October 2015.

Dr. David B. Yerger's paper "Is Ontario's Electricity Cost Disadvantage Impacting Its Manufacturing Shipments?" was published in the *Journal of Academy of Business and Economics*, Volume 15, Issue 3, pp. 91-98, October 2015.

Dr. David B. Yerger's article "Exploring Cross-Border Natural Gas Price Dynamics: Pennsylvania's Impact Upon Canadian Provinces" was published in the *Journal of International Business and Economics*, Volume 15, Issue 3, pp. 145-152, October 2015.

Forthcoming in the *Handbook of Globalization and Development*, **Dr. Christopher Jeffords** provides an outline of the origins of economic and social rights found within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Titled "Economic and Social Rights Research: The Quantitative State of Affairs," the chapter then provides an overview of the current state of quantitative economic and social rights research, beginning with general indicators of economic and social rights outcomes, such as the Social and Economic Rights Fulfillment Index. Dr. Jeffords then summarizes the nascent research on specific rights, including the rights to social security and work, the right to a healthy environment, and the rights to education and health. Edited by Professor Kenneth Reinert at the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs at George Mason University and forthcoming in 2016-17, the *Handbook of Globalization and Development* is part of the *Edward Elgar Handbooks on Globalization Series*.

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Faculty Notes (cont.)

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Dr. David B. Yerger's article, co-authored with Dr. Amber L. Stephenson (School of Management-Union Graduate College), titled "The Role of Satisfaction in Alumni Perceptions and Supportive Behaviors" was published in *Services Marketing Quarterly*, 2015, Vol. 36, No. 4.

On December 4 and 5, 2015, IUP students from **Dr. Brandon C. Vick's** Global Poverty class (ECON 481) and students from Dr. Amanda Poole's Applied Anthropology class (ANTH 369) attended the 15th annual Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) Symposium in Washington, DC. The Appalachian Regional Commission, a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local governments, has invested over $1,000,000 toward developing the leadership capacity of students since 2001. The Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) awarded $4,500 to Dr. Vick to partner with a local community partner and develop a community-based research project affiliated with his ECON 481: Global Poverty course. Students worked with the locally based Center for Community Growth to meet three goals: conduct quantitative research on the economic decisions and hardships of families in the region; conduct qualitative research on the experiences of people facing hardship due to expenses, debt burdens and/or barriers to gaining/keeping employment; and communicate findings to help the Center in its mission to educate people about local barriers to economic justice. At the ATP Symposium, six of Dr. Vick's students researched statistical data to present a broad description of local poverty. They partnered with Dr. Poole's students who conducted group and individual interviews and analyzed the data they gathered.

Ode to Keith Hall: An Economist's View (cont.)

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Using Keith Hall beyond its life expectancy without major renovation certainly helped to keep the price of an IUP degree within reach of tens of thousands of students. And the value of that IUP degree was determined by the interactions among faculty, staff and students and not by how many commodes and fixtures were taped over in the restrooms. The contrast between the now-shabby condition of Keith Hall and the significance of the high-quality learning accomplished under its roof offers another instance of the truth that quality is not best judged by appearances.

As I recall, my first class at IUP was in Keith 130 at 8 a.m. on a Monday in 1981 and my last class in Keith 130 was an 8 a.m. final exam on Tuesday December 8, 2015. Despite its rough condition, Keith Hall has been an object lesson in a plucky American pragmatism that has served many generations of students well and it will be missed.

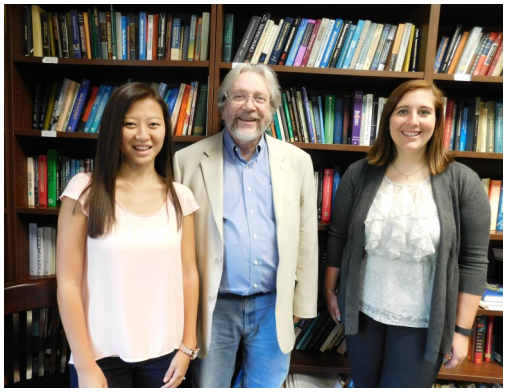
Keep in touch!

The faculty in the Department of Economics are always thrilled to hear from their former students. Please keep us posted on your work and well-being. Feel free to drop us a note via email, letter, or phone call. Or, complete the Alumni Information Form (on page 11).
We would love to hear from you!

Student Notes

Congratulations to **Jessica Black ('15)** who received the *Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award* at the 2015 Pennsylvania Economic Association (PEA) Conference held at Penn State-Berks in May 2015. Jessica's presentation was titled "Dropping Out of High School: An Analysis of Pennsylvania Counties (co-authored with economics alumna **Savanna Bonds '14** and supervised by Dr. Stephanie M. Brewer Jozefowicz). This the fifth consecutive year that a paper written by an IUP Economics major has won an award in the PEA Best Undergraduate Student Paper Contest. It also marks the fourth time in five years that an IUP entry has won first place in the contest. In addition to a $200 cash prize, the paper will be published in the *Pennsylvania Economic Review*.

Erica Sittig and Jennifer Johnson were recipients of the Karl A. McDermott Scholarship for Economics. In September, **Dr. Karl A. McDermott ('76)** visited the Department of Economics and met with Erica and Jennifer (see picture at right). He also attended Dr. Alexi Thompson's Industrial Organization class where he discussed the regulation of a natural monopoly with the students.



Dr. Karl McDermott with Erica Sittig (left) and Jennifer Johnson (right).

Jennifer Johnson, a McDermott Scholarship for Economics recipient, is currently working for the Pittsburgh Steelers Marketing Department as Experience Staff. Jen worked over the summer with the Steelers at Saint Vincent College, where training camp is held. Now she works game days on the Steelers Nation Unite fan loyalty program. Jen helps fans to sign up, troubleshoot their issues with the app, and promote the program. Jen writes, "The experience has been incredible and rewarding. I have learned so much from the organization and truly love going to work every Sunday."

Alumni Information

The Department of Economics aims to maintain a current contact list of all of our alumni. Please let us know what you are doing!

Name: _____

Graduation year, degree earned: _____

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