

3 October 2025

Memorial Resolution for Colleen M. Callahan

The faculty and staff of the Department of Economics and the College of Business note with sadness the passing of Colleen M. Callahan on August 27, 2025, at the age of 70. Colleen earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined Lehigh's Department of Economics in 1984, was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1987 and, in 1992, she became the first woman in the College of Business to be promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. For family reasons, Colleen left Lehigh in 2000 for Occidental College in Los Angeles and later for American University.

Colleen Callahan was widely admired for her lifetime of accomplishments as a teacher and scholar. She taught undergraduate and graduate students in macroeconomics, financial economics, and economic history. Colleagues and students praised not only the quality of her classroom lectures but also her open-door policy that encouraged students to meet with her to discuss academic and non-academic issues. Among her greatest joys from teaching was connecting with and impacting a wide variety of students at different phases of their educational careers. Colleen proudly stated that she learned as much from her students as they learned from her.

She was a long-term member of the Economic History Association, for which she was a two-time Chair of the Association's Committee on Teaching. Colleen's excellence in teaching was also recognized by Lehigh University with the Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1991 and the prestigious Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History, awarded by the Economic History Association, in 2010.

Colleen published research on United States monetary history in the 19th and early 20th centuries. These included two articles on the Smoot-Hawley tariff and the resulting trade wars between the US and Canada. They appeared in *The Journal of Economic History* – the premiere economics journal in the field. In these articles, Colleen and her co-authors discussed the political economy of tariffs, research that provides valuable insights into current tariff controversies. She also published research on price uncertainty and interregional trade. Colleen was a good citizen in economics, serving on the editorial board of *The Journal of Economic History*, as a referee for macroeconomics and economic history publications, writing book reviews, and editing collected works.

There are faculty whose names are forgotten one or two semesters after they leave the university. But Colleen was one of those outstanding colleagues, the memory of whom is evergreen even after twenty-five years. One of her department colleagues says that when he thinks of his best times at Lehigh, he always remembers the Economics Department's

home football game tailgates that Colleen and her husband, Bobby Goldwater, organized. Burgers, beer, faculty's children running around, and much laughter; it was difficult to leave to go watch the game. A former academic coordinator expressed the feelings of many in the Economics Department when she stated that she had seen many faculty leave in 37 years, but only cried once – when Colleen left.

A popular instructor and respected colleague, she exemplified strength, kindness, and a truly profound affection for generations of Lehigh students.

We move that this memorial resolution be made a permanent part of the faculty record by being included in the minutes of this Senate meeting and that copies be sent to her husband of 40 years, Bobby Goldwater, and her mother, Joanne Callahan.

Mary Beth Deily, Professor Emerita
Frank R. Gunter, Professor
Rene Hollinger, Academic Coordinator (Retired)
Thomas Hyclak, Professor Emeritus
Judy McDonald, Professor Emerita
Vince Munley, Professor Emeritus
Anthony O'Brien, Professor Emeritus
Ahmed Rahman, Associate Professor
Larry Taylor, Professor Emeritus
Robert Thornton, Professor Emeritus
Todd A. Watkins, Professor