



3 January 2025

Memorial Resolution for Jon T. Innes, Professor of Economics

The faculty and staff of the Department of Economics and the College of Business note with sadness the passing of Jon Innes on October 23, 2024, at the age of 87. Jon earned his bachelor's degree from Penn State University in 1958 and his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in 1967. He joined Lehigh's Department of Economics in 1965, was promoted to assistant professor in 1967, associate professor in 1973, and full professor in 1987. He also served as a visiting professor at the University of Buckingham, England, in 1981. He retired in 2002.

Jon was a master teacher and certainly one of the most versatile to have ever taught in Lehigh's Economics Department. The list of courses that he taught at the undergraduate level includes Statistical Methods, Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis, Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis, Money and Banking, Monetary and Fiscal Policy, and Empirical Economic Analysis. At the MBA level he taught Introduction to Quantitative Methods and Money, Banking, and Macroeconomic Analysis. And at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels his courses included Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis, Advanced Topics in Macro, Monetary Theory, and Mathematical Economics. (Parenthetically, the writers of this memorial resolution thought that it might have been easier to simply list those courses that Jon did not teach rather than all that he did!) For his classroom efforts he was voted by students as the outstanding teacher in the College of Business and Economics in 1969, and he was the recipient of the University's Lindback Award (before there was both a junior and senior Lindback award) in 1970.

Although he did not produce many research publications, what he did produce was both of high quality and noteworthy. For example, his article "The Status of Master's Programs in Economics" appeared in volume 2 of the Journal of Economic Perspectives, one of the flagship journals of the American Economic Association. His article on the correct interpretation of semilogarithmic regression coefficients in the 1989 Journal of Labor Research has had more than 4,000 reads and hundreds of citations, according to the Research Gate database. And his 1985 article, "On Simpson's Paradox in Economic Statistics," which appeared in the Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, derived the mathematical conditions necessary for the paradox to manifest itself. Jon's wry sense of humor came through clearly when, after deriving the conditions, he remarked: "Paradox lost? With apologies to John Milton." The journal editors allowed the comment to remain!

This memorial resolution would not be complete without mentioning at least a few of Jon's numerous service contributions to the department, the college, and the university. For example, he served as director of the college Ph.D. program for many years and was the major advisor for all (yes all) economics majors before we mercifully divided up the task

to other economics faculty. He also served several terms on the university's Educational Policy Committee, as well as the College of Business and Economics Policy Committee, Committee on Writing Skills, and the Ph.D. Committee—again, to name just a few.

Despite his many teaching, research, and service commitments, Jon kept his office door open. Students and faculty colleagues never felt that they were intruding if they stopped by for an unscheduled talk. Conversations with Jon could range over a wide range of economic topics as well as literature. One of his favorite authors was Jane Austin, who he thought was not only a great writer but also provided subtle lessons in practical morality.

Jon was never impatient except when he was dealing with what he saw as unnecessary administrative burdens imposed on students and faculty. For example, when some section of the administration would contact him for information that had been previously provided to another administrative section, rather than send the requested information, Jon would respond that the questioner should first check with their administrative colleague before contacting the faculty.

A truly exceptional teacher, a careful and thoughtful scholar, and a wonderful colleague, Jon Innes will long be remembered by his many students, friends, and colleagues at both the past and present Lehigh. 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 his wife Judy and to his children Valerie and David.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Economics Department,
Chad Meyerhoefer, Professor and Chair
Robert Thornton, Professor Emeritus
Frank R. Gunter, Professor