WHERE ARE THEY NOW?  
RETIRED FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

JAMES (JIM) MCDONALD  
ECONOMICS, 1972–2016

What is your teaching mantra?
Econometrics is easy, econometrics is fun, econometrics is your friend, and it can sometimes be romantic. I have a whole wall of engagement pictures from students in my courses.

What was your most impactful moment at BYU?
About ten years ago, I came down with the autoimmune disease Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), which resulted in me becoming quadriplegic for about six months. [During that time] students and colleagues visited me in the hospital and at home. The department had a fast and covered my classes, and I was able to teach a class nine months later. It was quite a spiritual experience.

How are you filling your time now that you’ve retired from teaching?
I continue coming to the office to take a walk with colleagues, work on research, and occasionally cover econometrics classes. My wife jokes that my schedule hasn’t changed much since retirement, except that I don’t get paid to go to work. However, we have had more flexibility to do things with family.

What is your favorite hobby?
I enjoy hiking/walking and am almost obsessive compulsive about getting at least 10,000 steps a day, [especially] after being able to walk again. The University of Utah Hospital specialist refers to me as his Lazarus. So when we went to Israel a few years ago, I had a picture taken of me in front of Lazarus’s tomb.

What motivated you to become a professor?
I was thinking about going into the Foreign Service. The experience [of interning] at the U.S. Department of State showed me that career wasn’t for me. The idea of becoming a specialist in an area that interested me, being able to research and teach, and having flexible time were deciding factors for me to become a professor.

What was your favorite part about teaching at BYU?
I was incredibly privileged to work with colleagues in various colleges whom I consider some of the finest people to walk this earth. After teaching for decades, I look at some of my former students and believe that they also fall in that same category.

What was your go-to snack or treat on campus?
One of my research assistants prevailed on me to try chocolate-covered cinnamon bears. I reluctantly gave in, and it was a mistake—I really like them.

DONNA LEE BOWEN  
POLITICAL SCIENCE, 1979–2017

How are you filling your time now that you’ve retired from teaching?
Retired? I am working on two big research projects. Right now I’m trying to find places for my books. I’m also delighting in relaxing more and taking things a little slower. My husband looks forward to travel; we share a cabin in Teasdale, Utah, and I love stargazing.