



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.

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.



DONNA LEE BOWEN
POLITICAL SCIENCE, 1979-2017