

Recognizing excellence

Greatness in business comes with extensive experience, commitment, and perseverance. The W. P. Carey School of Business is proud to recognize the excellence of leaders from the local, national, and international business community.

Executive of the Year

The W. P. Carey School's Dean's Council honors one business leader annually whose contribution is recognized as significant to the nation and the world, whose inspired leadership has created and sustained superior organizational performance, and whose achievements exemplify a model for future business leaders.

2017 Executive of the Year: Edward J. "Joe" Shoen



Shoen first joined U-Haul, a company founded by his parents, in 1967. Two decades later, he began leading U-Haul International Inc. and was chosen as the president of the board of directors for its parent company, AMERCO.

Under three decades of Joe's leadership, U-Haul has greatly increased choices available to consumers in the do-it-yourself moving and self-storage industry. In 1987, there were 4,600 U-Haul rental outlets. Today, U-Haul has more than 21,000 locations; 285,000 trucks, trailers, or towing devices; and over 50 million square feet of rentable self-storage space in North America.

With 1,100 locations providing propane, U-Haul has one of the largest propane refilling networks in North America and is the largest seller and installer of aftermarket hitches.

Shoen is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, Harvard Business School, and Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Accessing industry thought leaders

Economic Club of Phoenix – Lead. Inform. Influence.

The Economic Club of Phoenix (ECP) enhances discussion of economic and business issues among academic, business, labor, and public sectors in the Phoenix area.

2015–16 speakers

Cliff Burrows, Group President, U.S., Americas, and Teavana, Starbucks Corp.

Susan Salka, CEO, President, and Director, AMN Healthcare Services Inc.

Harvey Kanter, President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board, Blue Nile Inc.

Hilary Schneider, President and CEO-Elect, LifeLock Inc.

2016–17 speakers

Jason Clemens, Executive Vice President, Fraser Institute

Tony Sarsam, CEO, Ready Pac Foods Inc.

David Jacofsky, Chairman and CEO, The Core Institute

Mark Emmert, President, NCAA

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Lawrence R. Klein Award

An annual honor for economic forecasting accuracy, the W. P. Carey School of Business presents the Lawrence R. Klein Award in association with the nationally recognized Blue Chip Economic Indicators newsletter.

2016 Klein Award recipient: Dean Maki



Dean Maki is managing director and chief economist for Point72 Asset Management. He leads a team that is responsible for analyzing and forecasting the economies and monetary and fiscal policies of the U.S., Asia, and Europe. Maki earned his PhD in economics from Stanford University. He is a member of the Economic Club of New York and a former president of the Forecasters Club of New York, as well as the New York Association for Business Economics. The author of many articles on economic trends, he has been published in numerous academic journals.

Before joining Point72, Maki was managing director and chief U.S. economist at Barclays from 2005 to 2014. He previously worked as a vice president of economic research at JPMorgan Chase, responsible for forecasts of Federal Reserve policy, the federal budget, and Treasury debt issuance. Earlier in his career, he worked as a U.S. economist at Putnam Investments and was a senior economist at the Federal Reserve Board.

W. P. Carey Alumni Hall of Fame

Established in 1977, the W. P. Carey Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes alumni who have demonstrated leadership and achievement in their fields and in the community.

2016 Hall of Fame inductees: Tariq Jesrai, David J. Larcher, and Guisheng Yang



Tariq Jesrai, retired chairman and CEO of Doncasters Group Inc., spent the majority of his career in the aerospace industry. Prior to joining Doncasters, he served as CEO of McKechnie Aerospace, directing the strategy, operations and integration of all companies. He has also held executive management positions with Hartwell Corp., a quick access latching systems manufacturer; Aeroquip-Vickers, a worldwide leader in the design, manufacture, and marketing of hydraulic systems and components; and Honeywell International. Jesrai graduated with honors in mechanical engineering from Kingston Polytechnic and received his MBA from the W. P. Carey School in 1991.



David J. Larcher has been with Vestar, one of the largest privately held owners and operators of shopping centers in the U.S., since 1989. As founding principal and president, he is responsible for Vestar's acquisition, development, and operational activities, and acts as the key contact for Vestar's retail relationships. A member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the Urban Land Institute, Larcher also serves on the board of governors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale and the board of trustees for Xavier College Preparatory. He earned a bachelor's degree in real estate with a minor in finance from ASU in 1982.



Guisheng Yang is the chairman of Shanghai Genius Advanced Material (Group) Co. Ltd., which fills gaps in the field of engineering plastics in China and promotes the development of relevant industries. Established by Yang in 1992, the company is noted for its independent innovation and energy conservation, as well as the cooperation it fosters between industries, universities, and research institutes. A leading scholar in engineering plastics and composite materials in China, Yang holds academic posts at Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Science; Zhejiang University; and Hefei University of Technology. He has earned two W. P. Carey degrees in Shanghai, his MBA in 2007 and DBA in 2015.