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


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

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

2017–18 speakers

Ken Lamneck, President and CEO, Insight
Ernie Garcia III, Chairman and CEO, Carvana
Richard Laver, Founder, Kate Farms Inc.
Chet Cadieux, President and CEO, QuikTrip Corp.

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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.

2017 Klein Award recipient: Nariman Behravesh

Nariman Behravesh is the chief economist and spokesperson of IHS Markit. He has been covering the global economy for more than 40 years, making him one of the most well-known members of the economic forecast community, highly respected by academics and across the private sector, as well. Behravesh holds PhD and MA degrees in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, where the late Nobel Prize winner Lawrence Klein was Behravesh’s doctoral dissertation advisor. Behravesh worked for years on developing and extending Klein’s large econometric models.

At IHS Markit, Behravesh oversees the work of more than 400 industry professionals worldwide, who cover economic, financial, and political development in more than 200 countries. The author and former television host is cited extensively in the media, and is a sought-after speaker at top global conferences. He has lived in Europe and the Middle East, and is fluent in several languages.

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.

2017 Hall of Fame inductees: Scott Donaldson, Sondra Lehman, Michael Staenberg, and Christopher Myers

Scott Donaldson has been with Ernst & Young (EY), one of the largest professional services firms in the world and one of the “Big Four” accounting firms, since 1982. As a partner and practice leader for EY’s Exempt Organization Tax Services, he is responsible for overseeing more than 115 tax professionals who serve nonprofit and government clients, including charitable organizations, health care systems, universities, trade organizations, and foundations. Donaldson, a certified public accountant, received his bachelor’s degree in accounting and his Master of Accountancy from the W. P. Carey School.

Sondra Lehman serves as the president and founder of Flying L Properties, a boutique real estate investment and rental firm focused on properties in recreational and educational destinations in the Caribbean, Mexico, and the United States. Previously, Lehman served as the president and COO of LSG Sky Chefs Inc., a division of the world’s largest provider of airline catering and in-flight services — LSG Lufthansa Service Holding AG. She earned her bachelor’s degree in accounting from the W. P. Carey School in 1988.

Michael Staenberg is the founder and president of The Staenberg Group, a privately held company dedicated to building retail properties across the country. With over 40 years of experience in real estate, Staenberg has developed over 200 shopping centers comprising more than 35 million square feet of premier retail space. In 2005, Staenberg and his wife Carol established the Staenberg Family Foundation which helps fund community programs relating to medical research, social services, and Jewish culture. In 1976, he received his bachelor’s degree in business administration with a focus in economics an finance from W. P. Carey.

2017 Inaugural Young Alumni Inductee: Christopher Myers

Christopher Myers is the CEO and co-founder of BodeTree LLC, an online service that focuses on helping small business owners better understand their finances by providing them with access to advanced tools and advisement. A regular contributor to both Forbes and The Wall Street Journal, Myers has published over 100 articles on entrepreneurship, startups, and small businesses. He earned his bachelor’s degree in finance from the W. P. Carey School in 2006 and a certificate in accounting and economics from Babes-Bolyai University in Romania.