Martindale Center for the Study of Private Enterprise

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Current Faculty: Todd A. Watkins, Ph.D., executive director and director of the Microfinance Program; Robert J. Thornton, Ph.D., associate director and editor of Martindale publications; Judith McDonald, Ph.D., associate director and director of the Canadian Studies Institute.

Faculty Emeriti: J. Richard Aronson, Ph.D., founder and former director; Richard W. Barsness, Michael G. Baylor, Ph.D.; Ph.D.; Carl R. Beidleman, Ph.D.; Raymond Bell, Ph.D.; Mohamed S. El-Aasser, Ph.D.; James Saeger, Ph.D.; Oles M. Smolansky, Ph.D.; Howard R. Whitcomb, Ph.D.


Staff: Janice Johnston Howie, program director; Melissa Gallagher, administrative coordinator.

The Martindale Center for the Study of Private Enterprise was established in the College of Business and Economics in 1980 with a gift from Elizabeth Fairchild Martindale and Harry Turner Martindale '27. The Center develops a range of programs and activities to promote understanding of the structure and performance of the US economic system and its relationship with the world economy.

The Martindale Student Associates Program and the Microfinance Program are among the Center’s most popular programs. The Student Associates Program is an international undergraduate research program which, each year, enables a cohort of students from across all disciplines to research the economy of a foreign nation and to publish their academic papers as a volume of the Center’s undergraduate research journal, Perspectives on Business and Economics. The Microfinance Program comprises a broad range of activities including faculty research, undergraduate and graduate student research, academic-industry initiatives, opportunities for field immersion in the US and abroad, and a community lending practicum and internships for students.

Martindale’s Canadian Studies Institute was established in 2005. Its role is to promote understanding of Canadian economic and political issues by supporting topics of mutual interest to US and Canadian faculty, and by bringing Canadian speakers to campus.

In the spring of 2015, Martindale announced its most recent focus and the newest addition to the Center’s suite of activities. The initiatives under development will engage faculty, students and industry professionals in projects relating to research and practice in the field of family business.

The Martindale Center produces a range of scholarly publications and provides sponsorship and support for faculty research initiatives, lectures, conferences, and visiting scholar and executive-in-residence programs.

Contact Us: Martindale Center for the Study of Private Enterprise
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