

## JOSEPH G. FISHER

Joseph Fisher retires at the end of spring semester from the accounting department at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, leaving a legacy of high scholarly accomplishment, extensive service, and teaching excellence.

Joseph received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University, magna cum laude (1981). He received his Master of Arts (1985) and his Ph.D. (1987) in accounting from The Ohio State University. He began his academic career at the University of Arizona, moving from there to the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, where he was promoted to associate professor. He joined the Indiana University faculty in 1993 as an associate professor and was subsequently promoted to full professor. He currently holds the Harry C. Sauvain Chair and previously was the Fed Ex and KPMG Faculty Fellow. He had worked earlier at Deloitte as an external auditor and is a certified public accountant.

Joseph taught at all levels in the Kelley School, but his major teaching assignments were in the traditional Master of Business Administration program. He has been honored with numerous teaching awards at multiple universities. Former students note his “generosity of spirit,” “ability to make a potentially dry topic extremely interesting,” and “quirky sense of humor.” They also note “his deep concern that students are grasping difficult concepts,” “his mentorship and help in finding key summer internships,” “his ability to apply and relate academic concepts to the real business world,” and “his ability to create a great learning environment, both in and outside of class.” In addition, Joseph wrote several business cases that have been used at numerous universities. In summary, Joseph was a very successful instructor who cared deeply about pedagogy and his students’ learning.

Joseph taught at many international universities, including International University of Japan, Theseus Institute (France), EDHEC (France), Melbourne Business School, Helsinki School of Economics, Aalto University (Finland, Singapore), and National University of Singapore.

During his productive research career, Joseph published with numerous co-authors articles, books, and book chapters in the most prestigious



academic business journals including *The Accounting Review*, *Decision Sciences*, *Strategic Management Journal*, *Journal of Management Accounting Research*, *Behavioral Research in Accounting*, *Sloan Management Review*, *Academy of Management Journal*, *Public Choice*, *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, and *Journal of Cost Management*, among others.

Joseph’s primary research interests focus on the intersection between financial numbers and human behavior, particularly the behavioral impact of financial numbers and the use of financial information in managerial decisions. His early work focused on contingency control. He found that financial control effectiveness was a function of firm environment and strategy. His later work relied on an experimental approach and much of this work addressed budgeting systems. Budgeting systems are nearly ubiquitous in all business firms; however, many firms note dissatisfaction with current budgeting practices. His findings suggest that financial numbers, budget structure, power, and other variables can have significant impacts on firm outcomes. His academic work has been cited in numerous business and practitioner publications. Joseph became one of the go-to persons for academic and industry conference presentations on budgeting systems. His work has been very highly cited and has opened new research avenues.

Professor Fisher is co-author of *Cost Management for Tomorrow*, sponsored by the Financial Executives

Institute, and of the Financial Management Program for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). He has served on several AICPA task forces and has presented at many AICPA industry conferences.

Joseph has extensive review expertise, serving as a research reviewer at many academic journals. He has served on the editorial boards of several journals, including *The Accounting Review* and *Accounting Organizations and Society*.

Joseph has served at the national, industry, and school levels. He has been very involved in the American Accounting Association (AAA), serving as president of both the management accounting section and the accounting, behavior, and organizations sections (each has in excess of 1,400 members). In addition, he served several terms on the AAA National Council.

At the Kelley School of Business, Joseph served in numerous capacities. One of his key roles was serving two terms as the accounting department chair (2004–10 and 2013–14). Under his leadership, the department developed new programs and initiatives. In addition, during his tenure as department chair, the accounting department was always ranked as one of the top accounting departments in the nation.

Joseph’s retirement will give him more time to spend on his varied outside interests, including cycling and tennis. In addition, he hopes to travel, especially on cycling tours. Nancy, his wife, and he have cycled in many countries and hope to continue this activity. In addition, his wife is conversational in French and he hopes to make progress on learning the French language. He also notes that his two sons live about as far apart as possible in the continental United States (Fort Lauderdale and Seattle). He expects to spend more time in these two locations, ideally Fort Lauderdale in the winter and Seattle in the summer. He also looks forward to finding new skills and interests and seeing which ones stick.

In summary, Joseph has left a lasting impression and legacy at the Kelley School of Business. We wish him well on his future journeys and adventures.

*Jamie Pratt*