Following the “Masters”

Labor@Wayne is directed by Dr. Marick F. Masters, who arrived on January 5, 2009 from the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests include unions in politics, union finances and administration, labor-management cooperation, and public/federal sector labor relations. He is the co-chair, with Michael Filler of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, of the Public Sector Industry Council of the Labor and Employment Relations Association. He has taught a variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including Labor Relations, Human Resource Management, Conflict Resolution in the Workplace, and Negotiations. Dr. Masters is also a Professor of Business at Wayne State University.

GREETINGS...

I welcome you to the Master of Arts in Industrial Relations (MAIR) program. Linda Johnson and I are delighted that you are part of this inspiring program. You join a very distinguished group of alums who hold important positions in this great metropolitan area. These are challenging times for those who toil in the fields of labor, industrial, and employment relations. We aim to give you the knowledge and skills you need to succeed today and into the future. We at the Labor Studies Center and Labor@Wayne have an open door policy, so come visit us if we can be of any help. I wish you all the best for a great academic year.

....Marick Masters

Do you know? Employment and Labor Law Trivia: What does the Latin phrase “Qui tam” mean?
The Helping Hands of Alumni

Everyday, headlines reiterate in bold lettering the effects of a troubled economy. It is no secret that higher education has been hit very hard by this bleak forecast. Increased tuition rates and a stagnant job market make for a very uncertain future. Companies that once put thousands of dollars into tuition reimbursement programs are fewer and farther between. However, at the same time, MAIR alumni have responded to the call for donors and increased scholarship funds for current MAIR students.

James Allen, a graduate of the MAIR program has opened up his heart and his wallet to donate monies for tuition, books, and/or fees for a current MAIR student this fall 2009 semester. James received his MAIR degree in 2004. Already a successful attorney with Allen Brothers, with his practice focusing on municipal, labor and employment issues, James felt that a MAIR degree would markedly enhance his professional portfolio.

In 1993 James was an intern with the Michigan Attorney General's Office. For the next five years James would advance through the higher courts to become a judicial law clerk; at the same time attending law school. He graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctorate in 1994 and in 2000 James added to his list of accomplishments “…founder of Allen Brothers, Attorneys and Counselors, PLLC [along] with his older brothers, David and John.” James can also boast of being one of six attorneys in a Philadelphia-based law firm to represent General Motors in labor and employment issues.

James’ donation to the MAIR program translates into his support for and confidence in the continued success of the program. Thank you, James!

The Perseverance of Albert: A Human Interest Story

Albert J. Bowman is a current MAIR student. He is employed by the university in the Human Resources Department as a Benefits Representative with Total Compensation and Wellness. Currently, Albert occupies a second floor office in the Academic Administration Building; has a spectacular view of the city, and is able to request assistance from support staff whenever needed. He can be found on any given day behind his desk in a professionally pressed shirt, tie, and very distinguished suit. To his credit, he can add a Bachelor of Arts in Labor Studies, and a political candidate for the mayoral race in the City of Highland Park. His wife received her BS from Wayne State and is a medical professional working right down the street in Henry Ford Hospital’s main campus.

At the same time, I can recall Albert being outfitted in WSU's standard operational facilities uniform, while sweeping and mopping the atrium in the Faculty Administration Building. It was nearly impossible not to notice his friendly smile and hearty greeting early in the morning--and every morning. He would address me as "Ms. Johnson", though I am only his senior by a few years (or maybe one decade); however, I was quite appreciative of his salutation and I realized that his character was worthy of taking notice. As time passed, Albert seized the opportunity to take advantage of WSU's tuition assistance program; obtained his undergraduate degree, then applied and was accepted into the MAIR program. Albert wanted an advance degree, and for a while, he picked up a mop and broom in order to achieve his goals.
Profiles of current MAIR Students; in their own words...

Kuryakin C. Rucker

Kuryakin (KC) Rucker is a second-year MAIR student, and expects to graduate from the program in May. Prior to enrolling in the MAIR program, KC was a student in the Master of Labor Relations and Human Resources (MLRHR) program at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked as a labor relations professional for a Fortune 500 utility company. KC is also a licensed attorney practicing in the Detroit metropolitan area. He opened his general practice law firm, the Law Offices of Kuryakin C. Rucker, PLLC, in 2009. A Detroit native, KC graduated from Cass Technical High School, and earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Wayne State. KC is a divorced father of two beautiful children: a daughter, Lane-Michael and a son, Zachary. KC lives in Detroit.

Belinda Smith

Here is a brief Bio: I am a 53 year old student with one Masters, in Dispute Resolution, returning this fall for a second Masters in Industrial Relations and a Certificate in Peace and Conflict. I love school and all that comes with it. I have one son who is working on his Doctorate in Physics, here at Wayne State. I retired from the State of Michigan in 2002 as a social worker, since then I have been pursuing my dream as a "student of the world". Once I complete these current programs, I plan to seek my Doctorate in Dispute Resolution or Communications. I look forward to meeting and matriculating with my fellow MAIR students this fall, it’s like starting with a whole new set of friends. So this is Belinda Smith in a nutshell! See you all this September!

Belinda

Shertina Spencer

I’m Shertina Spencer. I’m currently a full time Real Estate Agent with Keller Williams Realty. I completed my Undergraduate Degree in E-Business at University of Phoenix and am currently completing my last class to earn my Graduate Certificate in Human Resources Management from Walsh College. I’ve worked in accounting/bookkeeping and finance positions since 1991. In 2005, I began my sales career with various HR positions interspersed throughout the last several years. After, discovering the wide range of HR competencies combined with my experience and education, I realized that Human Resources is where I want to build and focus my career path going forward. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Bill Spencer, Jr, and we have two wonderful children, Tena and William III. We are expecting our third child (a baby girl) to arrive approximately December 14th.

The quality of education that students receive in the MAIR program is of utmost concern. We strive to keep our curriculum relevant and the educational environment challenging. Your comments and suggestions can be sent to: ab1232@wayne.edu

Aim Higher
Graduating fall 2009?
Go to pipeline.wayne.edu and complete your Application for Graduation on or before October 2, 2009. It is very important to adhere to the deadline.

What They are Saying...
Recently, MAIR alumni were asked to provide some feedback on the quality of the MAIR program. Here are some of their responses:
“…the program was quite relevant to what is needed in the workplace…”
“…the program benefited me in the long run…”
“Labor economics, the seminar classes, and certain electives… were rigorous and prepared me to enter the PhD program here at Wayne.”
“…and I was able to network with other students in my classes.”

Labor @ Wayne invites you to…
A Welcome Back Reception for:
• New and Returning Master of Arts in Industrial Relations Students
• New and returning Labor Studies Majors
• Alumni & Faculty
Thursday September 17, 2009 1339 Faculty Administration Building 4:30 to 6:15 pm
• Meet and Mingle
• Staff and faculty introductions
• Remarks from Dr. Marick Masters, Director of Labor @ Wayne
• Q&A

Refreshments will be served

rsvp: 313.577.0175 or ab1232@wayne.edu
Scholarships are available for the fall 2009 term.
If interested, please write to:

Dr. Marick Master c/o Linda J. Johnson
MAIR Advisor/Academic Services Officer
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
3178 Faculty Administration Building
Detroit, MI 48202

Please give for the future success of a Wayne State University student.
Go to aimhigherforstudents.wayne.edu

“The mind is a terrible thing to waste.”

Labor @ Wayne Staff wishes you a

Marick Masters, Director
Gayle Gianino, Interim Assistant Director
Juanita Hatcher, Administrative Assistant
Octavia Eaton, Assistant to Director
Master of Arts in Industrial Relations
Linda J. Johnson, Academic Services Officer/Advisor (MAIR)
Labor Studies Undergraduate degree
Frank F. Koscielski, Academic Services Officer/Advisor (LBS)
Labor Studies Center Staff
David Dobbie
Gayle Hamilton
David Reynolds
Tom Karson

Articles written and/or arranged by Linda J. Johnson
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