



Expert Sources from Minnesota’s Private Colleges

October / November 2008

The member institutions of the Minnesota Private College Council are home to 17 communities of scholars who provide insight, analysis and expertise on a wide variety of news and events. Members of the media are invited to locate leading thinkers for expert commentary on a wide variety of issues and topics from this periodic listing of faculty experts. This listing includes resources on:

- Economics
- Family Life
- History
- Management
- Media – Advertising
- Nutrition
- Political Science
- Religion

Economics			
Professor and Institution	Expertise	Background	Contact
Tony Becker <i>Associate Professor of Economics</i> St. Olaf College 507-786-3974 507-645-9628 (h) becker@stolaf.edu	Becker’s research involves the sub-prime lending crisis and how it is affecting rural areas.	While studying sub-prime lending, Becker has noticed that the "breaking point" for the issue actually appears to have come in 2003, when the proportion of sub-prime-loans "really took off." As for overall economic woes, a tax cut or rebate, he says, may not be an effective stimulant for the economy right now.	David Gonnerman Associate Director, Media Relations Specialist St. Olaf College 507-786-3315 gonnermd@stolaf.edu
Family Life			
Professor and Institution	Expertise	Background	Contact
Clayton Houff <i>Adjunct Faculty – M.A.in Marriage and Family Therapy</i> Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota Graduate School of Health and Human Services	Houff holds expertise in Adolescent chemical dependency treatment, rural mental health services and intensive in-home family therapy.	Houff obtained his graduate certificate in marriage and family therapy after completing his Masters of Arts in Human Services from John Carroll University. He works at the Prairie Center for the Family providing individual, couples and family counseling. Houff published two feature articles in the <i>Adolescent Counselor Magazine</i> .	Clayton Tenquist Executive Director of External Affairs - Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota 612-728-5199 tenquist@smumn.edu

History			
Professor and Institution	Expertise	Background	Contact
Sujay Rao <i>Assistant Professor of History</i> Gustavus Adolphus College	Rao's expertise is in the areas of Latin American history, U.S.-Latin American relations, Mexico and Argentine history.	Rao holds a B.A. from Cornell University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. His research focuses mostly on the political conflicts in Argentina and has been supported by fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fulbright program.	Matt Thomas Media Relations Manager Gustavus Adolphus College 507-933-7510 mthomas@gustavus.edu
Management			
Professor and Institution	Expertise	Background	Contact
Robert McElrath <i>Adjunct Faculty</i> <i>Master of Business Administration</i> Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Graduate School of Business and Technology	McElrath's expertise includes marketing management, advertising concept and strategy, marketing research and strategic business market development.	McElrath holds a Doctorate of Education in Leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. He works at Frandsen Financial Corporation as the senior director of marketing and strategic leader. McElrath has been a national conference presenter for many trade association groups on marketing, advertising, database management and strategic campaign development.	Clayton Tenquist Executive Director of External Affairs - Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs Saint Mary's University of Minnesota 612-728-5199 tenquist@smumn.edu
Media - Advertising			
Professor and Institution	Expertise	Background	Contact
Clay Steinman <i>Professor, Humanities and Media and Cultural Studies</i> Macalester College	Clay Steinman is often quoted in the media regarding his expertise on political advertising. Steinman can discuss the role of political advertising, mass media in society as well as a variety of media and film issues including news media coverage, television viewing habits and stereotypes in Hollywood films.	Steinman's research interests include the impact of television and film on culture, and racism and Hollywood film.	Barbara K. Laskin Media Relations Manager Macalester College 651.696.6451 laskin@macalester.edu

Nutrition			
Professor and Institution	Expertise	Background	Contact
<p>Julie Miller Jones <i>Professor of Nutrition</i> College of St. Catherine's Phone: 651-690-6664 651-636-2275 (home office) 612-819-5692 (cell); email: juliemjones@comcast.net</p>	<p>Jones travels nationally and internationally to present nutrition updates to commercial bakers, carbohydrates role in diabetes and overcoming barriers to collaboration between nutritionists and food scientists in the development of nutritious and delicious products. She can also discuss are trans-fats and heart disease, celiac disease and the glycemic index.</p>	<p>The recipient of the American Association of Cereal Chemists' highest honor, the William F. Geddes Award, Jones received her B.S. from Iowa State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.</p>	<p>Julie Michener Media Relations Manager College of St. Catherine 651-690-6521 651-253-8931 jmichener@stkate.edu</p>
Political Science			
Professor and Institution	Expertise	Background	Contact
<p>Jillian Locke <i>Associate Professor of Political Science</i> Gustavus Adolphus College</p>	<p>Locke's expertise is in the area of democratic theory, feminist theory, history of political thought, race and politics.</p>	<p>Locke holds a B.A. from Whitman College and an M.A. and Ph.D from Rutgers University. Her research interests lie in the moral elements of democracy. She currently teaches courses on race and politics, American political thought, and democratic principles.</p>	<p>Matt Thomas Media Relations Manager Gustavus Adolphus College 507-933-7510 mthomas@gustavus.edu</p>
<p>Daniel Hofrenning <i>Professor of Political Science</i> St. Olaf College 507-786-3128 (w) 507-786-4665 (h) dhofrenn@stolaf.edu</p>	<p>Hofrenning is an expert in U.S. politics, public policy, and religion and politics.</p>	<p>Hofrenning, author of the book <i>In Washington But Not Of It: The Prophetic Politics of Religious Lobbyists</i>, teaches public policy and American politics. He most recently has been quoted by the New York Times and appeared on CNN's Lou Dobbs program. He also has provided commentary for MPR, KARE-11 and FOX-9. His opinion pieces have appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the St. Paul Pioneer Press and at MSNBC.com.</p>	<p>David Gonnerman Associate Director, Media Relations Specialist St. Olaf College 507-786-3315 gonnermd@stolaf.edu</p>

Political Science (continued)			
Professor and Institution	Professor and Institution	Professor and Institution	Professor and Institution
<p>David E. Woodard <i>History/Political Science</i> <i>(department chair)</i> Concordia University, St. Paul</p>	<p>Woodard is interested in the history of U.S. politics. He has studied and taught about presidential elections, parties, and campaigns throughout history. He remembers the first state election he followed: the 1966 senate contest in Illinois between Paul Douglas and Charles Percy. He has also done political commentary on several local television stations.</p>	<p>Woodard received a B.A. in both Political Science and History from Western Illinois University. He earned his M.A. from Southern Illinois University and a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in 1996. Woodard has been teaching at Concordia University since 1999.</p>	<p>Jill Johnson Director of University Marketing & Communications Concordia University, St. Paul 651-641-8755 jjohnson@csp.edu</p>
<p>Nancy Zingale Professor Emerita of Political Science, Retired Professor and former chair of Political Science Department University of St. Thomas 651-962-6928 nhzingale@stthomas.edu</p>	<p>Zingale's expertise is in the areas of elections, public opinion, political parties, survey research and polling.</p>	<p>Zingale has commented on elections for newspapers and radio and television stations, and has analyzed exit polls for NBC News. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and is co-author of "Political Behavior of the American Electorate" (now in its 11th edition) and "Partisan Realignment: Voters, Parties and Government in American History."</p>	<p>Jim Winterer St. Thomas News Service 651-962-6404, jcwinterer@stthomas.edu</p>
Religion			
Professor and Institution	Expertise	Background	Contact
<p>Michael Holmes <i>University Professor of Biblical Studies and Early Christianity</i> Bethel University</p>	<p>Holmes currently serves as Chair of the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies at Bethel University. He speaks and teaches frequently at Twin Cities churches, universities, and seminaries, and has served as an interim pastor.</p>	<p>Holmes' primary research interests are New Testament textual criticism and the "Apostolic Fathers" (a collection of early Christian writings). His publications include several books, more than 25 articles, essays or chapters in books, and more than 185 book reviews (covering more than 200 books in 20 journals).</p>	<p>Amanda Wanke Director of Media and Internal Communications 651-638-6266 a-wanke@bethel.edu</p>
<p>Mark Schuler <i>Professor of Religion, Greek and Archaeology</i> <i>Chairperson, Department of Religion and Theology</i> Concordia University, St. Paul</p>	<p>Schuler combines archaeological expertise and academic training in the texts of early Christianity to provide cultural context for the familiar stories of the Christian tradition.</p>	<p>Schuler is the co-director of the Hippos/Sussita Excavations in Israel and has for the last decade traveled extensively to the sacred sites and early centers of Christianity in the eastern Mediterranean. He is also a trained theologian whose research and writing are in gospel studies.</p>	<p>Jill Johnson Director of University Marketing & Communications Concordia University, St. Paul 651-641-8755 jjohnson@csp.edu</p>

NOTES

- For back issues of Expert Sources, visit www.mnprivatecolleges.org/media – where you will also find other information about private colleges, as well as links to all of the colleges own home pages.
- For general media inquiries about private colleges, contact John Manning at the Minnesota Private College Council at 651-293-6805 or jmanning@mnprivatecolleges.org, or you can contact Kate Metzger at 651-293-6830 or kmetzger@mnprivatecolleges.org.

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