

**Editor's Note:  
The Lasting Achievement of Gerald Gunderson**

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In most successful entrepreneurial ventures, different people come into and out of the picture at different stages of the enterprise. The founder is often not the person who takes a firm public, and the person who takes a firm public is often not the person who runs the company at maturity. In a few rare instances, however, an entrepreneur involved at the early stages continues to advance a business venture as it matures and reaches a wider audience. Frederick W. Smith, Herman W. Lay and John M. Templeton are some of the more famous examples. The *Journal of Private Enterprise* is also a venture that owes its initial growth and its wider distribution to one entrepreneur, Gerald Gunderson.

Fall 2007 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year that the *Journal of Private Enterprise* has been published at Trinity College. Gerald, the Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of American Business and Economic Enterprise, is responsible for bringing the *Journal* from its modest beginnings to the high quality refereed publication it is today. Gerry took the reins as editor when the journal was in its infancy. In the following two decades he invested much time and resources from his endowment to improve everything from the journal's aesthetic appearance to its scholarly content, publishing the work of three Nobel Laureates and numerous accomplished scholars from whom almost certainly other Nobel Prizes will be drawn. Due to his efforts, the *Journal of Private Enterprise* is now indexed in the *Public Affairs Information Service*, *Cabell's Directory*, and the *Journal of Economic*

*Literature*, plus it has subscribers in two dozen countries on five continents.

Gerry was among the early members of the APEE, expanding the reach and quality of the organization. In the past 26 years, he has attended every annual meeting.

Gerry is not an easy sell as editor, as anyone affiliated with the Association of Private Enterprise Education can attest. He quickly earned the well-deserved nickname of “Dr. No” by rejecting the vast majority of article submissions – especially those from officers of the organization. But the flipside of his rigorousness was that he was willing to work with authors to help them improve their papers. I have seen some of Gerry’s folders with pages and pages of correspondence on a single article. From personal experience as an author, I can say that he offered many suggestions that made the published paper far better than the one that initially passed his desk, from simple notes on additional sources to ways to reframe the paper. Gerry often acted as a behind-the-scenes coauthor, and his persistent efforts contributed much to the scholarship in the journal. He is a true scholar.

For more than 30 years, Gerry has devoted his career to the benefit of others. Today, the seeds he planted are blossoming, and he has handed editorship of the journal to me. Under his mentorship, I plan for the *Journal of Private Enterprise* to continue to grow on the foundation that he has laid.