Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Edward Jones Center Friends and Supporters:

Well, normally we would like to believe that the first quarter of our fiscal year: June, July and August, would provide a little respite for us--the students are gone, our community programming takes a break and we can clean our offices and plan for the coming season. We tried to set the right tone with a staff retreat in early June at Tablerock Lake. We reviewed the year, discussed what worked and what needs improvement, cooked out and shared some laughs. Then we returned to campus and faced the busiest summer imaginable. The Commercial Street project, now Drury on C-Street, went into high gear as we worked with the architects and contractor to create a space that is the essence of entrepreneurship, and be open in time for weaving classes to begin when school started!! Grant writing and donor meetings have consumed much of our time since June and will continue to do so until we have the project fully funded for five years. We believe that will give us the window of opportunity we need to fully develop the programming at Drury on C-Street.
Drury’s vision is to take some existing programs and create some new programs that will offer our students valuable experiences while increasing the daily traffic and enhancing the business environment on the street. The Arts Administration program will start a new gallery in the space, which will be operated as a practicum by those students and will promote the works of students and faculty as well as other local and regional artists. One of the fifth-year architecture studios will move to the street, focusing its real world projects on design and concept needs on and around Commercial Street and will include business and entrepreneurship education for the budding architects within its curriculum. The fiber arts program has already moved to the space, including the weaving studio and, along with the Art Gallery, will have a strong community outreach component, working with special needs and underserved children and adults with art programming. Another new component will be the formation of the C-Street Business Resource Center, which is where Drury interns and SIFE team members will work directly with new and existing businesses on the street and the artists represented in the gallery, offering them marketing, design, accounting and finance support they would not otherwise obtain, promoting and supporting entrepreneurship in a very direct way, all the while giving our students an amazing experiential learning experience. This is important work for Drury—both for what it offers our students and our impact on the community. This is "Drury Connect" at its finest.

Within our Edward Jones Minority Scholars program is Drury’s deep commitment to diversity and making our campus a welcoming place for all. We were pleased to assist with programming for Drury’s Leadership Team, bringing Wes Pratt and Dr. Leslie Anderson to Drury to provide Diversity and Cultural Competency training. Sara Cochran and I, along with L.A. Anderson and Camielle Famous, worked over the summer to develop a similar training that the Edward Jones Scholars, along with other students, will provide to our freshmen through their Alpha Seminar class in the spring semester. We will "train the trainers" this fall. President Parnell challenged the Scholars to lead the way on this initiative and we are very proud that they embraced it.
The Springfield Angel Network funded another young entrepreneur that the Edward Jones Center mentored—we'll feature an article about him in our next newsletter. We continue to recruit more students to our Entrepreneurship Minor, working recruiting events and making presentations at every opportunity. Sara and I have also been consumed with the strategic planning process for Drury and we were both involved in strategic planning groups for the City of Springfield. We have great conferences and workshops planned for the season—so be watching for those announcements. We love your ideas and feedback—keep them coming!

All my best,

Kelley

August Quarterly Lunch and Learn

On August 11th, the Edward Jones Center held a quarterly Lunch and Learn featuring Dr. Rebecca Burrell. Dr. Burrell, who is in her 12th year with Drury's School of Education and Child Development, gave a stellar presentation titled "Your Life is a Masterpiece....What Are You Creating?" This presentation gave each attendee the inspiration and some tools to do just that—create. The President's House provided an intimate setting for this lunch gathering and another similar meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2.

Edward Jones Scholars

The Edward Jones Center is proud to announce the 2011 incoming class of Edward Jones Minority Scholars. These eleven bright, talented students arrived on campus in August and, so far, are really enjoying the college experience. This makes a total of 39 scholars over four classes for a full group. Upon the arrival of the students, the entire group gathered for improv activities to get to know the new class. This fall, many activities have been planned for the group— including a trip to St. Louis, various lunch and learn speakers and incoming scholars will be paired with an older "big pal" to help guide them through their freshman year.

- Aliana Barnes - San Jacinto, CA
- Kevin Daroga - Broken Arrow, OK
- Olivia Freese - Edwardsville, IL
- Jeremiah George - West Plains, MO
- Deidre Hardy - Springfield, MO
- Alice Hwang - Springfield, MO
- Colombe Iyeza - Stillwater, OK
- QueenEsta Lowe - Springfield, MO
- Dakoda Trithara - Springfield, MO
Entrepreneurship Students

The academic minor in entrepreneurship is available to any day student. This fifteen hour minor has been designed to enhance students’ opportunities and professionalism within any program of study. A brand new course was added this fall: "Social Problems - Entrepreneurial Solutions." This course introduces students to the concerns that exist in the 21st century and helps them discover the efforts that they, as university students, can make to help alleviate social problems now and throughout their life and can count for the values analysis credit under the Global Studies Minor. In addition, this fall, a new selected topics course is also being offered: “Zen of the Idea - Beyond the Box.” This tools-based course helps students increase their capacity for creativity. Between these new courses and the previously existing ones, about 100 students are enrolled in entrepreneurship courses each semester.

The Network for Springfield's Young Professionals

The Edward Jones Center has a partnership with the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce’s The Network for Springfield’s Young Professionals to provide entrepreneurship focused programming throughout the year. In July, EJC and The Network teamed up to host "Self-Made and Under 40: Young Entrepreneurs in Springfield" where attendees heard the personal stories of Noah Aldridge, Big Time Results; Matt Krupa, Pasta Express; Chantel Drennan, Gelato Mio; and Brent Curry, Curry Marketing. About 80 members of The Network attended the event.

The 2011-2012 schedule is available on the website!