



Meet the Faculty: Brian Richard

Brian Richard grew up in Seattle. Before leaving for the South, he received his BS in Finance from the University of Washington and worked in the family business (construction equipment repair and sales) for several years. Also while working and attending college in Seattle, he was a member of the US Army Reserve, training and working as a Psychological Operations (propaganda development) Specialist.

In 1993, Brian left Seattle to attend graduate school at Clemson University in South Carolina. Except for one year back in Seattle, he has been a Southerner ever since. At Clemson he received a Masters degree in Regional Economics and spent six months studying abroad in France.

In 1997 he moved to Mississippi and began his career in economic development at the Central Mississippi Planning & Development District in Jackson, where he worked on regional planning projects, grant applications, and transportation issues. From there he moved to the State Economist's office at IHL where he performed economic and fiscal impacts studies of development projects, compiled economic indicators for the state, and conducted consumer and business confidence surveys.

Following several years working for the state, Brian took a position in the private sector with the statewide industry association for Mississippi's casinos. There he worked with casino operators and the state legislators and regulators on policy issues affecting casino tourism.

Throughout much of his time in Jackson, Brian was working towards a Ph.D. in International Development from Southern Miss. In 2005, he took a technical assistance outreach position at USM. For the next couple of years, Brian's work focused on providing technical assistance to local government officials and economic developers. In 2007, he completed his Ph.D. and moved into a faculty teaching position. Since then, he has taught courses in Quantitative Research Methods, Economic Development Policy and Theory, Business Retention and Expansion, and Business Recruiting. While teaching, Brian has continued his outreach activities, performing labor force studies, policy analyses, and economic impact studies.

Brian has extensive experience conducting economic impact studies using the IMPLAN model and has more recently performed studies using the REMI model. Helping communities with research that supports their economic development activities continues to be one of the most satisfying aspects of his job.

Brian has travelled extensively. He has at least driven through all 50 US states. As a member of the Army Reserve, he went to Korea and the Philippines. He has returned to France a couple of times since his study abroad experience, once as a chaperone for a group of junior high school students. Since joining Southern Miss he has accompanied graduate students on trips to China and India to study start-up firms.

Last year, he travelled to Hong Kong, Macau, Beijing and Tokyo on a belated honeymoon with his wife Jennifer, whom he married in 2009. They spend their time divided between Hattiesburg and the coast, where Jennifer works as a Systems Engineer at Ingalls Shipbuilding. They travel to Washington, DC whenever possible to visit her son Devin, who recently graduated from George Washington University.

In his spare time, Brian swims, bikes, and runs while training for triathlons. He has completed many short triathlons and three half Ironman triathlons. Last November, Brian experienced the pinnacle of his athletic career by completing the Florida Ironman triathlon (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run) in just under 11 ½ hours.



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