



May 2008

Dear Friends of KU Business:

With another school year in the books, I wanted to send you this recap about our exciting and successful year at the KU School of Business! I think you will be interested in hearing about a few representative “highlights.” Please join us in celebrating the successes of our students, faculty, alumni, and staff.

This message includes a number of links where you can learn more about a given success. Let’s get started; there is much to tell you!

The new building project has made great strides this year. Total pledges committed to the project include the challenge grant of \$10 million from Kent and Missy McCarthy, with other pledges exceeding \$10 million with another \$3 million possible from several of the donors in the short term. We are preparing for Phase II of the project, so I’m sure you will hear much more about our efforts in the coming months.

What a remarkable and memorable experience it was to have the Chief Justice of the United States, John G. Roberts, Jr., as the speaker for this year’s Vickers lecture. His visit included Q&A sessions with students and faculty, and presiding over a moot court competition. It truly was an outstanding event for our School and KU. <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-SZ05E>

Peter Curzon, a finance major, recently received a 2008 Chancellor’s Award. Peter was one of only ten graduating seniors to receive this award. He is an outstanding student, and the award recognizes his leadership and involvement in University and community activities. Peter plans to move to San Francisco where he will work with a boutique investment bank. <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-6XAIY>

MBA students Thomas Sanford and Paul Gregory were recognized by the Kansas City chapter of the Financial Executives Institute as “Outstanding Students” and each received \$2,500 scholarships. As Thomas noted, “I’ve been working really hard this semester, and it’s nice to get this recognition!”

Graduating finance major, Buck Bradley, has earned his degree in three years with a perfect 4.0 GPA. In addition to being an exemplary student, Buck is a sergeant in the Marines and has served as a squad leader of an anti-terrorism security team. He will be commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant this month, and is the proud parent of a five-month old baby boy. Buck received a well-earned “Outstanding Senior” award from our finance faculty.

Our MBA students participated in several “live case competitions” this year involving companies such as Garmin, Sony and Bayer. In these competitions, students were presented with an actual business situation and had 24 hours to develop a solution. The students presented their solutions to a panel of judges comprising corporate executives who are actually dealing with the situation. Our students competed with teams from other prestigious universities such as Harvard, Ohio State, Maryland, Wisconsin, Chicago, Emory and five international universities. <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-4KNZ2>

Among our Spring 2008 employment placements, students landed jobs in New York City, Dallas, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Chicago, Bentonville, Bonn (Germany) and Palatine (Israel), and the starting salaries for these students were above \$60,000.

Again this year, almost 35% of our business students participated in international and study abroad activities. To expand our international opportunities, we recently signed Memoranda of Understanding with two excellent Chinese universities. A group of our MBA and MAcc students is studying in China this month.

Finance professor Cathy Shenoy and lecturer Kent McCarthy co-authored a book on our Applied Portfolio Management program. It's available in bookstores now, and 50% of the royalties go to KU.

<http://www.business.ku.edu/news-98R6N>

Koch Professor of Economics Koleman Strumpf appeared on national and local television for his expertise in prediction markets. For news coverage and video, follow this link. It's great publicity for the School!

<http://www.business.ku.edu/news-INIW4>.

Rajendra Srivastava, the Ernst & Young Distinguished Professor of Business, has designed and licensed through KU an on-line technology that accesses and analyzes the financial reports of publicly traded companies. With no comparable technology available on the market, researchers and other decision makers will benefit from Raj's software.

Three of our faculty members, Laura Poppo, Vince Barker and Tailan Chi, were named to the Editorial Board of *Strategic Management Journal*, the top academic journal for publishing business strategy research.

Professors Audra Boone (finance) and Laura Poppo (strategic management) were recently designated "Ball Faculty Fellows," a fund established by alum Fred Ball of Balls Food Stores. Audra and Gilbert Karuga (accounting) have been granted tenure. Audra and Koleman Strumpf received the Guy and Rosa Lee Mabry Best Paper Awards for articles published this year.

Wally Meyer, director of our entrepreneurship program, was instrumental in obtaining a \$225,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to help fund the "KU for KS" initiative. This initiative will identify new business opportunities to address the economic and employment challenges facing distressed areas in Kansas. Also under Wally's guidance, our students participated and fared well in a number of entrepreneurship competitions.

Business School alumna, Dr. Karyl Leggio (Ph.D. in finance), became dean of the School of Business at Loyola College in Maryland after serving as the associate dean of the business school at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. <http://www.business.ku.edu/Alumni-FCJ6N>

Tony Batman (accounting '79) and Peter Brown (business administration '79) were recognized by the School as this year's Distinguished Alumni. Tony is co-founder and CEO of 1<sup>st</sup> Global, a diversified financial services firm with 1,800 employees. Peter is president and CEO of AMC Entertainment, Inc., a company with more than \$2 billion in annual revenue. <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-5A4CY>

Jennifer Jordan, director of our Business Career Services Center, was named this year's Outstanding Woman Staff Member at KU. Under Jennifer's leadership, our Business Career Services Center is doing exemplary work in assisting our students. <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-2APGM>

We received the prestigious Bronze Quill Awards from the Topeka Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators for two of our publications. Toni Dixon, our director of communications, was instrumental in developing these publications -- the "Dean's Report" for 2007 and "Invest in Their Success," a publication I use in fund-raising for the new building.

And finally, you may have seen the School's ad on the inside back cover of the special commemorative issue of *Sports Illustrated* for our national basketball championship. This was a great promotional opportunity for our MBA program that we couldn't pass up. <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-FXBTB>

As I said when introducing our distinguished alumni at this year's banquet, "It's not hard to get started talking about these alumni, but rather to find a way to stop talking about them." Certainly, the same is true of the School's successes for the past year, for it has been a remarkable year!

We thank you for your interest in the School of Business. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Best wishes, enjoy your summer, and look for my next message in July.

Rock Chalk!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

William L. Fuerst  
Dean