



August 2008

Dear Friends of KU Business:

Hope this finds you well and that you're enjoying the last few days of summer! Fall classes start later this week, so we're gearing up for another great year in the School of Business. On that note, I want to share some exciting news with you.

Our new building project received significant boosts recently. First, the Chancellor and Provost have agreed to provide public funds to support to the project. Second, and equally important, we had a very positive meeting with Kent and Missy McCarthy related to their leadership challenge grant and its possible extension. We now are planning the next phase of our fund-raising efforts. Thanks to the McCarthy's, Chancellor Hemenway and Provost Lariviere for their invaluable support!

Now is the time for a new business building to become a reality. With the generous support of our donors and the University's commitment to this project, there will be no better opportunity to provide our students with the type of learning environment they so richly deserve and require.

Comprising one of the largest graduating classes in the history of the School, 325 undergraduate students, along with 105 master's degree graduates and three Ph.D. grads, earned their business degrees in May. Congratulations to all of these students for their accomplishments! <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-VFSAG>

At the Spring graduation ceremony, we also recognized six faculty members as "outstanding educators." Dennis Rosen, Bill Beedles, Alee Phillips, Wally Meyer, Dan Spencer and Kelly Welch were this year's faculty honorees as selected by our students. Congratulations to these faculty members. We join our students in recognizing their excellent work. <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-RVJOB>

Our outstanding faculty are complemented by the notable quality of our business students. As we look with excitement to the coming academic year, we note a total of 534 students admitted to the School during 2007-08. During the Fall 2007 semester, 359 students were admitted with an average collegiate GPA of 3.43 and a 24.4 average ACT score. In the Spring, another 175 students were admitted with an average GPA of 3.26 and a 25 ACT. These are truly outstanding students who will benefit from the instruction of our superb faculty!

"In China, seeing is believing," said Justin Lueger, a current MBA student who, along with 10 other MBA students, spent two weeks in China recently. "My professors have

talked at length about the emergence of China and the impact it will have on the world. But it wasn't until I visited the country that I fully understood why." The School's international opportunities continue to be among the best offered by any business school in the country and extend our students' learning beyond the classroom.

<http://www.business.ku.edu/news-LB6ZK>

Our international CIBER program has placed three of the School's MBA students in its new "Global Business Project" to learn first-hand how to conduct business abroad. The students departed for their destination countries in May. Veronica Ayala went to Brazil, Brian Mellor went to China and Peter Tosco went to Japan. It will be interesting to learn of their experiences when they return to Mt Oread. <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-AIZVL>

Our communications team recently established a KU School of Business group on the "LinkedIn" social network to increase the connection among our business alumni. We welcome all business alums who want to be "LinkedIn" and encourage you to click on the following link. <http://www.business.ku.edu/Alumni-socialnetworking>

In addition, the School now has a presence on YouTube with the posting of a video featuring Ray Anderson, founder of Interface Global (a commercial carpet manufacturing company), and a self-described "industrialist and plunderer of the earth." Mr. Anderson, now a worldwide leader in advocating sustainable business practices, was the speaker for the 2008 Sutton Lecture. To watch the YouTube video, click on <http://youtube.com/watch?v=C6Mz7YWA9NM>, and to watch Mr. Anderson's entire speech, visit our website <http://www.business.ku.edu/news-2008SuttonLecture>.

We never know exactly how our grads will use the skills we teach them, but Grant Hinkley, BA 03, used his business skills in a unique way...he became a poker champion! Grant won a recent World Series of Poker event walking away with \$831,432 in winnings. He also negotiated a royalty deal immediately following his victory, increasing his income from this event. His mother, Lynn, said "I gained great respect for the business skills it takes to play at that level, and I understand why Wall Street firms recruit these guys for their abilities to strategize, read others at the table, make decisions under pressure, calculate odds and negotiate." Grant is proud of his KU business degree and will be competing again later this month...Go Jayhawk!

We are planning a "happy hour" Business alumni event Thursday, September 4, 2008, at The Culinary Center of Kansas City (7917 Foster Street, Overland Park, KS). Invitations have been sent, and we hope you will drop by this popular and fun event. Come mingle, network and renew friendships with alumni and faculty. We'd love to see you!

Watch for my next message in September when the Fall semester will be in full swing. If you know of any KU Business alumni who might be interested in receiving these messages, please forward this email to them, or let us know by replying to this email.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and Rock Chalk, Jayhawk!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill". The signature is written in black ink and is enclosed within a faint, dotted rectangular border.

William L. Fuerst  
Dean