



KU CIBER

Center for International Business Education and Research

Director Biographies

Dr. Melissa Birch, Director

Melissa H. Birch (Ph.D., University of Illinois) joined the tenured faculty at the University of Kansas in 1997 as associate professor and Co-Director of the School's Center for International Business. Her research focuses on the challenges of management in the developing economies of Latin America, and she has published in both the U.S. and Latin America on topics including public sector management, privatization, and regional integration. Birch teaches courses on International Business, Business in Latin America, Macroeconomics for Managers, and Corporate Strategy. She was the recipient of the 2002 Provost's Award for Leadership in International Education.

Birch has been Director of the KU CIBER since it was established in 1999 and has directed other grant projects from the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. State Department. In 2004 Birch was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach and conduct research in Paraguay. Before coming to KU, Birch taught at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia for more than ten years. She is past president of the Business Association of Latin American Studies, a member of the LASA Task Force on Scholarly Relations with Paraguay, a Contributing Editor for Brazil to the Handbook of Latin American Studies, and a member of the Editorial Board of the Latin American Business Review.

Jim Morrison, Co-Director

Alumnus of the University of Kansas

Jimmy D. Morrison has over twenty years experience in international business, both in the United States, Europe and South America. He has dealt in international transportation, telecommunications, data transmission, power generation and distribution as well as the automotive industry.

Mr. Morrison is currently involved in lecturing at the University of Kansas on international business issues as well as German business culture.

Mr. Morrison holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Kansas and attended the Universitaet Erlangen/Nürnberg. He is certified by the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce as an "Industriekaufmann" after having completed an accredited program with Siemens in Germany covering all aspects of commercial administration.

Mr. Morrison has served as member of the board of directors of the American Public Transit Association (APTA) as well as the Railway Progress Institute (RPI) governing board. He currently sits on the advisory board of the Max-Kade Center for German-American Studies at the University of Kansas and the university's Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER). He also serves on the board of Kansas International.

Contact: jdmorr@ku.edu