MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As we welcome you to a new academic year, I am happy to report that we have had yet another strong start to the fall semester. The 6 percent increase in credit hours this year topped a four-year, 40 percent growth spurt unmatched by any other school of our size and stature in the nation. We now have almost 7,000 students enrolled in the Naveen Jindal School of Management. What makes this feat remarkable is that it was also accompanied by significant improvements in student selectivity. The incoming students this fall represent the best class ever to attend our school.

We had a strong recruiting effort on the hiring front too. We welcomed 22 new members to our faculty at the start of the school year. All academic fields in the school have gained new faculty members. We also added 19 new staff colleagues to support student and administrative functions. These new faculty and staff members add significantly to our ability to provide our students with the very best education possible.

I cannot help but be proud of what our students, staff and faculty members have accomplished since I last wrote to you. With hardly a pause between the last academic year and this one, our students continue to work. In June, a new graduate student earned the highest score in the world on the Bloomberg Aptitude Test in business and finance. In August, an accounting junior won a competitive $5,000 Ernst and Young scholarship. Also in August, a PhD student earned two best paper awards from the Academy of Management. And an August MBA graduate who is now enrolled in the MS in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Start-Up Launch Program learned he was the recipient of a $10,000 Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation Scholarship.

As the school year got under way, a team of full-time MBA students who had graduated in May was notified that it had earned first place in a nationwide Turnaround Management Association student paper competition. It was the third top MBA honor for a Naveen Jindal School team in the past three years.

Accolades have come to our faculty members, too. Dr. Brian T. Ratcliffe was named a Fellow of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences’ (INFORMS) Society for Marketing Science. INFORMS honored Dr. Kathryn Stolley for her contributions to advancing the careers of women in operations research, management science and analytics disciplines. The PhD Project is inducting Dr. David L. Ford Jr. into its Hall of Fame.

Sadly, I must note the deaths this past spring of longtime Accounting Professor Constantine (Connie) Konstans, who founded the Institute for Excellence in Corporate Governance, and of Dr. JoyLynn Hanley Reed, who taught a variety of courses here for more than a decade. Although we miss them, they inspire us to continue. Connie’s legacy is going to live on forever, through an endowed professorship in accounting and governance that will carry his name. This endowed professorship was established by a generous donor to acknowledge Connie’s contributions to our school, community and the profession.

On May 1, we broke ground on a new addition of about 110,000 square feet to our existing 204,000 square-foot building. The new addition is next to our current building and is physically connected on both ends forming a large complex of classrooms and student service areas and offices. We expect it to be completed by next summer, just in time for the new school year. This new building addition will provide the much needed space for our current operations. It will also help improve the education we offer to our students by facilitating a significantly better student learning environment.

This fall, the UT Dallas capital campaign Realize the Vision is entering its last year, and I am pleased to report that the Naveen Jindal School has raised more than $46 million of its $50 million campaign goal.

While we cannot stop until we reach that goal, I am grateful to the number of our alumni contributors that has increased 252 percent in the past four years. In uplifting to know that past students are acknowledging the value of the education they received here and tangible contributions that will secure the school’s future. Please stay with us in the home stretch of the campaign and remember that JSOM needs you.

As ever, we remain grateful to our students, parents, corporate and community supporters. And once again, we renew our commitment to be among the best public business schools in the nation. Thank you for your support and continued assistance.

Best wishes,

Hasan Pirkul
Dean and Caruth Chair of Management

Visit our site on the worldwide Web
http://jindal.utdallas.edu
The Naveen Jindal School of Management — and students are reaping the employment benefits.

“Don’t settle on the job, launch a career.” That’s the motto of the Career Management Center in the Naveen Jindal School of Management. Tom Kim, assistant dean for the center, and the entire center staff feel personally responsible to make that happen for the almost 7,000 Jindal School students they are guiding. “Sixty-seven percent of students in internships get full-time offers,” Kim says. “We have to get them to see the opportunity and make it happen.”

The Career Management Center has stepped up its game in the Naveen Jindal School of Management — and students are reaping the employment benefits.

THE CAREER MANAGEMENT CENTER GOES TO WORK FOR STUDENTS

Online Resources
With a student’s NetID, the following becomes available from the Career Management Center:

VAULT
A career resource for researching companies, internships and more.

GOING GLOBAL
More than 10,000 pages on job sources, employment trends and salary ranges.

INTERVIEW SIMULATOR
Practice isn’t just for mock interviews anymore. This simulated experience helps you get used to giving a response on the hot seat.
Kim wants to take the same sales approach to students that he used in his pre-UT Dallas career. Having been an executive at both PepsiCo and spinoff PrimeSource, he is not waiting for students to come to him. “We’re letting faculty know that if they’re not going to be able to teach on a certain day, then we want to take their place,” he says. “Let’s not cancel class. Let’s give them a workshop that will change their career path.”

And alumni in transition won’t find the center doors closing to them as they continue to have access to all main campus Career Services and JSOM Career Management Center events. With each semester offering 200-plus employers paying campus visits and more than 35 functions and workshops, numerous opportunities are available.

The center also has a strong commitment to veterans. In the past, the center has done a networking strategies workshop for them and a veterans industry forum, and “Dress for Success” workshops are coming up.

“We encourage companies not to hold back too much,” Kim says. “Saying they did a great job won’t help a student get a job. We don’t want them to hurt their confidence, but they also need constructive criticism.”

Kim encourages as much practice as possible, dismissed by how many students end up having their first interview experience after graduating. “We don’t want them to be intimidated — we want them to feel ready,” he says. “Mock interviews offer up a ‘vacuumed’ environment where making a mistake isn’t a bad thing — it leads to knowing how to improve.”

Industry forums are also extremely popular, the accounting version attracting 750 attendees. “Around five or six executives will offer up their insights,” Kim says. “COOs, VPs, many different titles are a part of it. Each forum is for a particular subject, and we expect them to continue to be very successful.”

Kim also understands that international students can sometimes feel held back as they try to get comfortable in their U.S. surroundings. The Global Ambassadors Program was created in the last year specifically to combat this. “It’s for everyone but something that talked with them that now wants to have them in for real to see if they’d be a fit,” he says. “You never know.”

What Kim does know is that a career center has to look beyond getting students jobs to getting them off on the right foot financially. That’s why it offers a career coach to help students negotiate salary. “The number a company offers is likely just a starting point, and most expect a candidate to negotiate and understand where they have wiggle room,” he says. Since salary at a first job can affect what you get at your next — and the next — not negotiating throughout your career can cost a worker six figures or even seven over their earning lifetime. “Negotiating is one of the most under- valued skills in a career, and we think it’s vital to make our students feel comfortable with the process,” he says.

**Just Getting Started**

The center is already bringing several hundred employers to campus a year, and Kim wants to surround students with live real-life experiences. When the center can’t do that, it even uses Skype, as it did with an alumna talking in a business-school workshop about how she got an internship.

Kim, who once had 169 people reporting to him as a naval officer, takes as focused an attitude toward students as he ever did toward those he outranked. “I have our staff updating résumé templates every six months for the freshest ones,” he says. You see from the board back there that I’m always trying to add companies — students need to feel prepared and confident — we’re going to make sure they feel that way.”

**The Interview and the Offer**

The center also recruits company representatives to conduct mock interviews with students, a rare opportunity to find out their weaknesses and gain polish for real interviews.

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The center instills in students the concept to treat every interview as the first, noting how often a candidate loses enthusiasm by the first interview. “We take them onsite to a company — it leads to knowing how to improve.”

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**The Naveen Jindal School of Management**
One Davidson namesake at the Jindal School, the Davidson Management Honors Program, reflects the Davidsons’ spirit of accomplishment and giving by providing select undergraduate students the opportunity to enrich their business education both inside and outside the classroom.

DMHP students benefit from a “cohort” approach, taking honors classes together that are taught by highly regarded Jindal School faculty members. Class sizes are limited, offering a unique experience to interact with and learn from their classmates and professors.

Beyond the classroom, DMHP provides opportunities for students to develop leadership, professionalism, community engagement and global awareness through various events, service activities and scholarships.

Every spring break, DMHP sophomores travel to Washington, D.C., and New York City to experience the commerce, culture and history of these cities while meeting with Jindal School alumni and employers.

Started several years ago as a single honors course, DMHP has grown into a robust program with more than 150 students. At the top of their high school classes, these high-achieving students represent some of the best business students locally, nationally and internationally.

Naveen Jindal School of Management alumnus Charles (Chuck) Davidson, MS 1980, chairman and chief executive officer of Noble Energy, is slated to deliver the keynote address November 19 at the school’s major annual fundraiser, the Scholarship Breakfast.

Now in its fourth year, the Scholarship Breakfast has generated more than $300,000 and funded almost 150 new scholarship awards for Jindal School students. The event has found success in adhering to a twofold purpose: to offer a forum for discussing relevant business issues and to support the education goals of JSOM students.

Davidson will draw on his more than 35 years of energy industry experience in addressing the event, to be held at the Westin Galleria. Put on with support from the North Texas business community, alumni and friends, the breakfast this year will recognize communications technology and services provider Ericsson as the largest corporate donor of scholarships to the Jindal School.

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Active in numerous industry and trade organizations, Davidson serves as chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America’s Offshore Committee. He also serves on the boards of the Cas Technology Institute and the Offshore Energy Center. He is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the National Petroleum Council.

Davidson participates as a Life Member of the Development Board of The University of Texas at Dallas, where he and his wife, Nancy (Gundy) Davidson, BS 1980, were named School of Management Distinguished Alumni in 2002 and UT Dallas Distinguished Alumni in 2008.

Longtime supporters of the Jindal School, the Davidsons made the first major alumni gift toward construction of the building that now houses the school. That generosity was commemorated in naming the Davidson Auditorium in their honor. In 2006, another Davidson gift established four endowed faculty research positions. Most recently, the couple joined in making a joint, $30 million gift with Naveen Jindal, MBA 1992. JSOM’s Davidson Management Honors Program commemorates that gift, and DMHP students will be present at the breakfast.

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Scholarships awarded with proceeds from the annual fundraiser go to the best, the brightest and the most-deserving students. Recipients demonstrate hard work and dedication to academics. Here, some Jindal School students reflect thankfully on the effects donor support has had in their lives.

I am in my final year of my Global MBA studies at UT Dallas, and I feel like I made an excellent decision to study at the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

I really appreciate your generous scholarship support. It has helped me greatly by allowing me to concentrate on schoolwork and concurrently do my internal medicine residency without having to worry about finances. I would not have been able to progress this far at this pace without your support. Again I really appreciate your generous contributions.

— Aasim Afzal, Dean’s Excellence Scholarship recipient

I chose to return to school after spending 20-plus years in the broadcast industry as an on-air personality....

There simply are not words to describe the valuable skills, knowledge and confidence my UTD master’s work has given me. My mission is to “pay it forward” by leading employees to grow personally and professionally.

This award was completely unexpected, and means so much to me personally. My family is very proud! Further, I am funding my entire degree from my savings, so I am extremely grateful for the financial award. Thank you for your generous contribution, and I hope you’ll continue to support other UTD students in this way in the years to come.

— Holly Williams, MS 2013, Austin Industries Scholarship recipient

The first year of my graduate degree had been challenging for me to manage my finances. I am much honored to receive this scholarship, which will help me focus on my studies.

I am glad to have great memories of UTD, which is possible because of your contribution. I appreciate your confidence in me and willingness to contribute to my future education. I hope to become an individual that makes our institution proud, epitomizing all of the values our university stands for and by which it has created its highly regarded reputation.

— Neha Kulkarni, Dean’s Excellence Scholarship recipient

When it comes to the mergers and acquisitions process, plenty of mystery remains. Yet how is a business community going to grow to its potential if successful tips aren’t shared? Law firm Haynes and Boone partnered with the Naveen Jindal School of Management to solve this very problem.

“Haynes and Boone came to us and said they had clients that had been through mergers and acquisitions, and they noticed that there wasn’t a formal professional group,” says Diane McKelly, associate dean for external affairs and corporate development, who put together the Association for Excellence in Corporate Development, and then it was a matter of finding speakers.”

The first was Mike Delakhant, vice president of strategic planning for Southwest Airlines, who talked about the merger with
Repaying kindness with gifts in kind for future students, alumna Jefflyn Williamson, BS 1983, recently established the Jefflyn Williamson Opportunity Fund and the Jefflyn Williamson Endowed Scholarship at the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

Scholarships and grants helped ease the financial burden she carried when she began attending UT Dallas. Giving back was one way to thank those who had made her career success possible. “There is a multiplier effect when you give,” Williamson has said. “Your gift doesn’t stop when you write a check. It keeps going.”

A first-generation college student, Williamson had enrolled after working as a flight attendant. In her financially lean student days, one generous award from the Northwood Woman’s Club, a local philanthropic organization, had freed her from worries about mounting tuition bills.

Post-graduation, Williamson forged a successful new career, becoming owner and president of Jefflyn and Company, a Dallas-based commercial real estate firm, and manager of the majority of Ebby Halliday’s commercial holdings. Her career credentials made her an eager leader in launching the Naveen Jindal School’s real estate curriculum, available to both undergraduate and graduate students, which publicly debuted early this year.

And the woman’s club scholarship motivated her scholarship endeavors. Last April, Williamson’s achievements and generosity were recognized when she and nine others were feted at the annual UT Dallas Awards Gala. She was among the seven UT Dallas graduates who received a Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor the university confers on past students.

To join Williamson in making a lasting impact on the Jindal School through planned giving, please visit utdallas.plannedgiving.org or contact Director of Gift Planning Anna LeBlanc, anna.leblanc@utdallas.edu, 972-883-6023.
THE ROSTER OF THE JINDAL SCHOOL’S ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS GROWN TO 45 with the addition of new member Gunjan Aggarwal. She succeeds Paul Miese as Ericsson Inc’s representative to the group of corporate executives, experts and leaders who offer outside guidance to school administrators.

Aggarwal is head of human resources for Ericsson’s North American region, driving HR strategy for the U.S. and Canada, which together have an employee base of more than 15,000 and annual revenue of $8.5 billion. “I’ve long admired the work the Jindal School does in preparing students to succeed following graduation,” Aggarwal says. “As a member of the JSOM Advisory Council, I am eager to bring my HR expertise to help expand JSOM students’ impact in the management field.”

Aggarwal joined Ericsson in 2012 and has several years of experience in managing the human resource function across the United States, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and India. She previously spent seven years with Novartis, most recently having served as vice president of talent management. She has written articles for American Society of Training and Development publications, Mass High Tech: The New England Journal of Technology and OD Practitioner. She has served as a board member of SHRM Global Human Metrics Expertise panel, executive member of the Novartis Learning board, global diversity and inclusion council, and as a member of the Chief Learning Officer Network advisory board. Aggarwal serves as an advisory board member of CanGrade, a startup based at Harvard University that utilizes data analytics for better hiring outcomes. She also serves on the board of Rubia Inc., a New Hampshire-based nonprofit that provides employment opportunities to Afghan women. Aggarwal holds a bachelor’s degree in electronics and communications from JMI University in India and a master’s degree in human resources from XLRI Jamshedpur. She has also completed postgraduate executive programs from Harvard University and MIT.

Complements, not collisions, in trio’s collaboration

MUTUAL FUNDS PAPER FINDS FIRST PLACE—AND CONVERTS

Any financial experts say that mutual funds that closely follow markets — and are otherwise left alone — tend to do better over time than those that are constantly changing from being managed. The reason is that “managers” charge a fee for their tinkering, often more than 1 percent of what is invested. When you consider that a difference of 1 percent a year has a substantial effect on an investor over a lifetime, it is not hard to see the view some experts have — that the management is not worth the extra expense. But three researchers at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, Associate Professors Valery Polkovnichenko and Feng Zhao and Assistant Professor Kelasy Wei, say ongoing great demand for actively managed funds comes from investor preferences for returns that tilt toward upside potential or downside risk protection. The result? The best paper award for the trio from...
the 2013 Asian Conference of the Financial Management Association International. So how did Cautious Risk-Takers: Investor Preference and Demand for Active Management begin? When Polkovnichenko saw a piece discussing the performance of active funds vs. passive, he knew right away who he needed to talk to: Wei. “With her strength in mutual funds,” Polkovnichenko says, “it seemed natural to get her feedback. She made so many good points.”

Then they turned to Feng, who came in as an expert in econometrics on derivatives. “He’s part of that tendency we needed when it came to having a hold of the sentiment,” Polkovnichenko says. “He and Kelsey did a lot of empirical work, as that’s not my strength.”

Polkovnichenko found their collaboration refreshing, believing the lack of overlap in their abilities allowed everyone to contribute with little interference — their continued research has the potential for larger benefit. “We all learned a lot from each other.” — Valery Polkovnichenko

You have to keep convincing people about this new idea while overcoming the stereotypes associated with active-fund management. There may be other emerging papers that can be a part of what we’re doing.”

Still, the recognition so far has had them presenting at several conferences and engaging in conversations that bring them new converts to managed funds’ possibilities. As the paper also states, “Tail-risk preferences suggests that active value and growth funds may serve to reduce downside risk and capture upside potential…” In a time where Social Security is no longer a sure thing of the past, Polkovnichenko knows he must keep convincing people about this idea. “It’s not my strength.”

Polkovnichenko

Kelsey Wei

Feng Zhao

NEW FACULTY ADDED IN ALL ACADEMIC AREAS

Newcomers joining the Naveen Jindal School of Management since January bring the school’s full-time faculty total to 174 this fall. Including part-time, adjunct and visiting professors, the total climbs to 223. All five academic areas, Accounting, Finance and Managerial Economics, Information Systems and Operations Management, Marketing, and Organizations, Strategy and International Management have gained faculty in the hiring process.

DOROTHEE HONHON

Dorothée Honhon joins the Naveen Jindal School of Management as an assistant professor of information systems and operations management, teaching operations management to MBA students in the fall and retail operations, a new course, in spring 2014. Honhon comes to UT Dallas from the Technische Universität Eindhoven in the Netherlands, where she also was an assistant professor. Prior to that, she was an assistant professor in operations management at UT Austin, where she received the UT Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award for Assistant Professors in 2010.

“UTD is a great school, with a strong focus on research quality,” Honhon says. “I lived in Texas before, when I was at UT Austin, and love the state — its weather, the food and the people.”

Honhon’s research interests lie in inventory management, retail operations, assortment planning and transportation. She is excited about the new course on retail operations that she is helping develop and hopes “it will be well received by the students.”

Honhon earned a PhD in operations management from New York University and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in management engineering from the Université Libre, Belgium.

KYLE HYNDMAN

An assistant professor of managerial economics, Kyle Hyndman comes to the Jindal School from Maastricht University in the Netherlands, where he was an assistant professor in the Department of Economics. He also has served in teaching positions at Southern Methodist University and worked at UT Dallas as an affiliated faculty member from 2008 to 2012.

Hyndman is teaching Advanced Managerial Economics in the fall and Behavioral Finance in spring 2014.

Married to another new faculty member, Dorothée Honhon (see above), Hyndman says that “when the opportunity to join UTD Dallas came up for both my wife and me, we jumped on it. UTD is a really exciting place to be, especially for relatively young faculty members.”

Hyndman’s research interests include behavioral and experimental economics.

“Since graduate school, I have always looked at models and their predictions and thought, ‘But surely real people don’t behave like that.’ By studying behavioral economics, I get to learn how real people actually make decisions. What’s not to like about that?”

Hyndman earned a PhD and MA in economics from New York University. He received his BA from the University of Alberta.

VIRGINIE LOPEZ-KIDWELL

Virginie Lopez-Kidwell, assistant professor of organizational behavior and Human Resources this fall, recently earned a PhD in management there, as well as served as a research and teaching assistant. She is teaching two sections of Organizational Behavior.

Lopez-Kidwell focuses her research efforts on organizational behavior...
“with an emphasis on emotional and relational dynamics in social networks.”

“it started to become interested in gaining a better understanding of employers’ behaviors, especially the role of emotions and information relationships in the workplace,” Lopez-Kidwell says.

“It feel very fortunate to be given the opportunity to teach and do research at the Jindal School. The remarkable academic reputation alone is enough to want to be part of this organization. I hope to keep developing my stream of research and eventually make an impact [on] the literature of my field…Concurrently, I would like to keep training and gain more understanding of the field of organizational behavior to better prepare them for the real world and their career path.”

Lopez-Kidwell earned a BS in finance from Virginia Tech University and an MS in economics from the University of Kentucky.

NIR YEHUDA
Assistant Professor of Accounting

Yehuda joins UT Dallas from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Prior to that, he taught five years at Cornell University, where he was voted onto the “honor roll in teaching” by students.

Yehuda’s research interests include for financial reporting and the role of accounting information in capital markets. He also studies mergers and acquisitions and whether acquisitions of private targets create higher value.

“Mergers and acquisitions are a cornerstone of corporate strategy. Corporate finance and management dealing with the combining of different companies and similar entities that can help an enterprise grow rapidly,” he says. “In addition, accounting for mergers and acquisitions has changed. Therefore I believe that there are many unanswered questions.”

Yehuda is excited about teaching at UT Dallas. “The Jindal School of Management is a leading research and teaching institute. Dean Pitkowitz has led the school to be one of the high-ranking teaching and research institutes in the country. The accounting department includes top professors in the field with diverse research interests. I look forward to teaching, as I very much enjoy the interactions with students.”

Yehuda earned a PhD in accounting from Columbia University, and an MBA and BA from Bar-Ilan University in Israel. He was a captain in the Israeli Defense Forces. He is teaching Intermediate Accounting this fall.

XIAOFEI ZHAO
Assistant Professor of Finance

Zhaocame to UT Dallas after completing his PhD in finance at the University of Toronto, where he also taught several courses. He is teaching Investment Management this fall.

Zhao’s research focuses on “learning under incomplete information and its implications on asset pricing and corporate finance.” His interest was spurred by his industry experience as an investment associate at an event-driven hedge fund, where he specialized in merger arbitrage and special-situations investments. He is also motivated by “a debate in academic literature on whether firms’ information environment matters for asset prices or not,” he says. “I am very excited about teaching at UT Dallas because of the stimulating and collegial environment. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to build up a research agenda. And, at the same time, I hope to bring my research and industry experience to the classroom.”

Zhao earned a master’s of quantitative finance degree and a master’s of math in actuarial science degree from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He received his BS in applied mathematics from Peking University.

MORAN BLUEShtein
A clinical assistant professor of finance, Moran Blueshtein joins the Jindal School after completing her PhD in economics at the University of Pennsylvania. While there, she served as a teaching assistant in undergraduate microeconomics.

Blueshtein’s research interest is in applied economics, public policy, education, media and social change. "As an activist who is involved in several environmental and animal-rights causes, I have been long interested in evaluating the effectiveness of social campaigns and understanding social change," she says.

Being married to JSOM Assistant Professor of Marketing Upender Subramanian, Blueshtein says, has made joining UTD “a natural decision for me. I hope to inspire students to be socially responsible people in their personal and business lives. I hope to facilitate this by integrating discussions on social issues in the classes I teach.” Bluestein earned a MA and BA in economics and a BA in law from Tel Aviv University. She is teaching Business Economics this fall.

Liping Ma
A recent PhD graduate from the University of Arkansas, Liping Ma joins UT Dallas as a clinical assistant professor of finance. She is teaching Quantitative Methods in Finance, both this fall and next spring.

Ma’s research focus is on the “impact of social networks on corporate governance.”

“I define powerful independent directors to be those with high social-business network centrality, and thus high social influence over their peers,” Ma says. “I show that boards dominated by powerful independent directors are less likely to demonstrate excessive loyalty to CEOs. They carry out the duties of monitoring and advising more effectively, result ing in superior financial performance and higher firm value.”

While at the University of Arkansas, Ma served as a research and teaching assistant, assisting with courses such as financial modeling, advanced investments and principles of statistics.

“I am very excited about this job opportunity,” she says. “UTD is one of the top universities in Texas and the nation, and has outstanding faculty with scholarly reputations. There are varieties of academic programs and a diverse student population at UTD. I hope to influence and inspire my students for the betterment of their lives, as well as conduct research [that] will add values to literature and provide guidance to practitioners.”

Liping Ma’s research interests include financial markets, corporate governance, and socially responsible people in their personal and business lives. She is teaching Quantitative Methods in Finance, both this fall and next spring.

“UTD is a premier institution in Texas that has provided me a wonderful opportunity to engage in teaching, research and service in the Dallas area and beyond,” he says. “I am humbly excited to be part of the academic community here.”

Before joining UT Dallas, Dylan, a captain in the Israel Defense Forces. He is teaching Intermediate Accounting this fall.

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Liping Ma’s research interests include financial markets, corporate governance, and socially responsible people in their personal and business lives. She is teaching Quantitative Methods in Finance, both this fall and next spring.

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Chicago and a BA in economics from economics appeals to me very much.”

Shcherbakova comes to UT Dallas from Pennsylvania State University’s Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering, where she was an assistant professor of energy economics, risk and policy. Shcherbakova is teaching Energy Economics and Financial Management this fall.

“As a Russian native, I have always been interested in Russian energy issues,” Shcherbakova says. “When I was in graduate school, Russia was in the news quite frequently for its unusual energy policy moves, and this was how I came across my dissertation topic: I have been studying energy issues ever since.”

“UT Dallas is a growing university that has many impressive scholars,” she says. “There currently is no formal initiative in energy economics at UTD. As important as energy is to Dallas, as well as the state of Texas, the opportunity to develop a program in energy economics appeals to me very much.”

Shcherbakova earned her PhD in public policy from the University of Chicago and a BA in economics from Knox College in Illinois.

JUN XIAXia, associate professor of strategy, joins the Jindal School’s Organizations, Strategy and International Management area from West Virginia University, where he served as an assistant professor. Prior to that, Xia was an assistant professor of international business at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

Xia received a PhD in management from Texas Tech University, preceded by an MBA from Xavier University, Ohio, and a master’s in economics degree from Zhongnan University of Finance, Economics and Law in Hubei, China. He earned his BS from East China Shipbuilding Institute in Jiangsu, China.

“There are excellent colleagues at UT Dallas, and I am excited to work with them,” he says. “My goal is to become a good and reliable teacher, researcher and colleague.”

Xia was a guest lecturer last spring at a Jindal School seminar. He will be teaching Strategic Management in spring 2014.

Xia’s research interests include organization theory, corporate strategy and emerging markets. “Many issues remain unknown about these research topics, so they are very interesting to delve into,” he says.

LYNN JONESSenior Lecturer in Accounting Lynn Jones is a certified public accountant (CPA) and certified fraud examiner (CFE).

Jones has more than 30 years of corporate experience to UT Dallas and is managing principal of Jones & Co., his own firm. He is teaching Cost Management Systems and Auditing and Assurance Services this fall.

He is excited about student opportunities at UT Dallas. “The growth of the business programs, and the accounting program in particular, translate into strong interest by companies who recruit here. Collectively, this creates better employment opportunities for students, and thus a more energized educational experience for both students and faculty,” Jones says. “I’ll be happy when I read about the achievements of former students in The Wall Street Journal.”

JENSY MAIERBringing almost 15 years of professional experience to the Jindal School, Senior Lecturer Jenisy Maier, CPA, CFE and certified anti-money laundering specialist, is teaching undergraduate Intermediate Financial Accounting I and graduate-level Intermediate Financial Accounting I this fall.

A graduate of UT Austin with an MBA and a master’s degree in professional accounting, Maier is a senior risk manager at Capital One in the firm’s home loans division. Prior to that, she served in managerial positions at Grant Thornton LLP, SBC Communications Inc., Ernst and Young LLP, and Arthur Andersen LLP.

“I am excited to be a part of a university that I consider dynamic, relevant and exciting,” she says.

ROBERT WRIGHTCorporate attorney Robert Wright has joined the Jindal School as a senior lecturer, bringing more than 30 years of experience as a corporate executive, entrepreneur and general counsel to such firms as BakBone Software Inc., Skywire Software LLC, SoftBrands Inc. and more. He is a member attorney at Palter Stokey

DEPARTMENTS NEW FACULTY
Sims Wright PLC and founder and chairman of Dallas Social Venture Partners, an initiative that seeks to apply business principles to philanthropy. In addition, Wright is a gubernatorial appointee as chairman of OneStar Foundation, a quasi-governmental foundation charged with increasing nonprofit effectiveness, and an advisory committee member of the Texas Emerging Technology Fund.

Wright is teaching Special Topics in Business Administration, Special Topics in Business Policy and Strategy, Entrepreneurship and Social Entrepreneurship this fall.

KATHY ZOLTON

Kathy Zolton, CPA, has been named a senior lecturer, after having served as an adjunct professor in 2012 while working full time as assistant controller for Southwest Securities. She brings more than 15 years of financial experience, having served in managerial positions at Ernst and Young, ClubCorp, INSpire Insurance Solutions and Arthur Andersen. Zolton is teaching Intermediate II Accounting and an online accounting course this fall.

As associate director of the Master of Science in Accounting program, she also will be coordinating the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program next spring.

“I hope to show students how accounting can be a proactive part of a thriving business, and how they, as accountants, can be part of the decision-making team and see improvement in people’s lives,” she says.

KUTSAL DOGAN

Visiting Associate Professor Kutsal Dogan returns to UT Dallas for the third time — the second time as a faculty member, following his first stint as a beginning doctoral student. He is teaching Database Foundations and Database Systems this fall.

An assistant professor between 2002 and 2009, he received the Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award at JSOM in 2007, which, he says, “was really special.”

Dogan has been teaching at Ozyegin University in Istanbul since 2009. He continues to serve as associate dean and associate professor of MIS there, as well as the department head of Management, Finance and Banking, and Management Information Systems. He received the 2012 IBM Faculty Award at the university, one of only two faculty members in Turkey to receive the award.

Dogan’s research interest is economics of information systems and technology.

SHAWN CARRAHER

Visiting Clinical Professor Shawn Carraher brings a “world” of experience to the Jindal School, having directed research in 126 countries and served as an officer of three divisions and two regional affiliates of the Academy of Management. He previously held the Hodson Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship and Business at Indiana Wesleyan University and was named Oxford Journal Distinguished Research Professor at Cambridge University in 2011.

Carraher is teaching Introduction to International Business this fall. His current research interest is global entrepreneurship.

“It grew up having students and faculty from around the world coming to visit my family and became interested in studying how to increase organizational performance around the world,” Carraher says.

Dr. Constantine Konstans, who found his niche in accounting and education after earning a degree in music and serving in the military, died May 20 — the day before his 78th birthday.

A longtime professor in the Naveen Jindal School of Management, Konstans recently was honored with a UT Dallas endowed professorship in his name (see Professorship Honors Konstans on page 22), as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award from D CEO magazine. He also was named a 2013 Fellow of the Open Compliance and Ethics Group, a nonprofit to help organizations achieve principled performance in areas such as governance and assurance.

Such accolades highlighted more than 50 years of academic and other achievements. Through the decades, in tandem with teaching credentials, he developed a wide range of professional expertise.

He long lent that expertise — as a certified public and certified management accountant, a certified internal auditor and a certified fraud examiner — to professional causes. A past president of the local chapter of Financial Executives International, he earned FEI’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011, in part for creating the JSOM-based Institute for Excellence in Corporate Governance.

“Connie Konstans was a brilliant professor who recognized the need early on to prepare students and executives for changing corporate governance and compliance regulations and expectations,” Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, provost and executive vice president at UT Dallas, said.

“He was a wonderful friend and colleague who will be greatly missed,” Dr. Hasan Pirzada, Jindal School dean and Caruth Chair of Management, said.

A trumpet player, Konstans earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University in 1957.

His subsequent stint in the Army propelled him toward accounting. “I noticed that the most influential person on the base...was the comptroller,” he told D CEO. That prompted him to take accounting courses, and from there, he realized, he had found his calling.

Continued on page 22
Dr. Hasan Pirkul said the professorship will serve sweeping changes in financial regulations.

The professorship “will honor Connie’s work, and continued excellence in the corporate governance and accounting programs,” Hemmig said.

Hemmig’s donation inspired others to contribute to support the professorship, and JSOM will match all contributions to the fund. Memorial donations can be made online to The University of Texas at Dallas at jindal.utdallas.edu/makeagift or can be mailed to: The Naveen Jindal School of Management, The University of Texas at Dallas, SM 42, 800 West Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080-3021. Please designate Constantine Konstans Professorship Fund on the payment.

IN MEMORIAM

JoyLynn Hailey Reed, a former UT Dallas senior lecturer in the Naveen Jindal School of Management as well as in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, died June 15 of cancer. Arriving at UT Dallas in 2001, she served in several roles across campus, including as director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, a faculty training and development resource that was a forerunner to eLearning.

In the Jindal School, Reed taught organizational behavior and accounting and business communications courses for more than a decade. “To Dr. Reed, students always came first. She was the faculty member who went out of her way to help students learn. She listened to their problems and shared her positive outlook on life,” Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, JSOM associate dean for undergraduates, said. In 2011, Reed joined UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, where she was an assistant professor and program director of Student Academic Assistance Services. Reed earned all her degrees from The University of Texas at Austin: a BA in English, a BS in Speech Communication, an MA in Speech Communication and a PhD in Educational Psychology.

Survivors include her grandmother, Mary Massey of Plano; Texas parents; Carol and Jim Hailey, of Plano; and a brother, Beau Hailey, of Frisco, Texas. A memorial service was held June 22. The family asks donations be made in her memory to Roaring Lambs Ministries, 17110 Dallas Parkway, Suite 220, Dallas, TX 75248.

JSOM Associate Dean for Undergraduates, Hailey Reed
Rebecca Files, assistant professor of accounting, has earned the UT Dallas President’s Outstanding Teaching Award. Nominated by students, it was presented to her at a recent Honors Convocation ceremony. UT Dallas President David E. Daniel said at the dedication event: “Dr. Files demonstrates an exemplary teaching ability enhanced by an enthusiasm for the subject matter.” Files started her university teaching career at UT Dallas in 2009.

Gene Deluke, senior lecturer in the Information Systems and Operations Management area, was a University of Houston undergraduate the last time the late President John F. Kennedy visited that city — on November 21, 1963. Last June, Deluke was contacted by a researcher who had found a photo of him (below), which ran in the Houston Chronicle, while researching a documentary, “JFK — The Final Hours.” Because Kennedy “was an honorary member of my fraternity, we made a banner and stood on the parade route, and that is when the photo was taken,” Deluke says. Filming in Houston this past July, Creative Differences, the company that produced the special for the National Geographic network, invited Deluke to attend and interview him and his fraternity brothers pictured here. The two-hour documentary was slated to air November 8 on the National Geographic Channel.

Tiffany Bortz, associate director of the undergraduate accounting program, was included by the American Institute of CPAs in a video on its “Start Here, Go Places” website. From showing what her day is like to tips on getting high school students interested in accounting, Bortz revealed the many positives of her field. Her take on what many people fail to realize about being a CPA: “It’s about being able to think critically and learn how to analytically look at a situation and come up with an answer. It’s a lot of problem-solving, a lot of critical thinking analysis.”


George of the law firm of Haynes and Boone, is about social data and privacy. The paper, “Data Scientists and the Data Supply Chain,” co-authored by Mark Austin of AT&T, discusses data scientists. “Pervasive Digitization and the Internet of Things,” co-authored by Gurshaman Baweja of Texas Instruments Incorporated, studies the Internet of Things. The papers can be found by going to www.bizjournals.com/dallas/big-data-big-implications.html.

So What Are Data Scientists, Anyway? And Do They Major in Dataology?” was the title of the address Slaughter gave August 1 at an inaugural information technology symposium in Fort Worth. The symposium was designed specifically for chief information officers and their teams. At CITM, Slaughter recently hosted “The IT Department of Tomorrow” on the future role of chief information officers and information technology departments (see CITM Forum Ponders Future of IT Department on page 31).

Kelly T. Slaughter, clinical professor of information systems and director of the Center for Information Technology and Management, has co-authored three white papers that the Dolits Business Journal is posting online. “Taming the Wild West of Big Data,” co-authored by Gavin D.

Randall Guttery, director of real estate programs and a member of the finance and managerial economics faculty, spoke in September at the Richardson Economic Development Partnership luncheon. Guttery has been using speaking opportunities to raise the profile of the real estate concentrations, which are offered at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Enrollment in real estate courses has more than tripled from 2011 to the present, with 469 students having signed up in the 2013 calendar year.

Opinions blog on D Healthcare Daily, a news site offshoot of D Magazine devoted to the business side of medicine in Dallas, Fort Worth, Denton and Collin counties. Dr. Fleming often writes about healthcare reform and the Affordable Care Act. In June, he hosted and moderated the second in a series of D Magazine-sponsored events designed to help small-business owners navigate coming changes in health insurance that are a result of the act.

Abhijit Biswas, assistant co-ordinator of the Marketing area, contributed his insights to a July 26 front-page Dallas Morning News story on renaming Cowboys Stadium to AT&T Stadium. While Biswas expressed surprise that Dallas Cowboys’ owner Jerry Jones dropped Cowboys from the name, he told the newspaper the deal was a “big win-win” for both the football franchise and the Dallas-based communications corporation.

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Randall Guttery
GIFTS BOLSTER EMERGING SPECIALTIES

Corporations taking notice of new academic specialties make gifts in support of two new endeavors

TI BACKS STARTUP LAUNCH

With a $25,000 gift, Texas Instruments Incorporated (TI) became the first corporate contributor to Startup Launch, a new concentration within the Master of Science in Innovation and Entrepreneurship degree program. Startup Launch takes individuals or small teams with a significant, scalable business concept and provides them with intensive faculty coaching, as well as space in the UT Dallas Venture Development Center, to help them bring their ideas to market. Seed funding of up to $25,000 per idea is intended to help defray startup costs. Students simultaneously earn an MS in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

“The Startup Launch is an example of the type of initiative that can create economic growth for Dallas and for this region,” Steve Lyle, diversity and workforce development director at Texas Instruments and a past chairman of the Jindal School Advisory Council, said. “It connects the dots from STEM at Texas Instruments and a past chairman of the Jindal School’s other corporate friends to match its gift.

TOM JAMES COMPANY ESTABLISHES A SALES SCHOLARSHIP

Tom James Company, the world’s largest manufacturer and retailer of custom clothing, established a scholarship in its corporate name that will support undergraduate students with interest in professional sales. Ash Deshmukh, senior vice president of business development, sees the $25,000 investment as a win-win arrangement.

“The best way to get our brand out there is to attach it to something that means a lot to students,” Deshmukh, who has established scholarships for Tom James at other universities, said. “The scholarship helps the program have money to attract bright students, and we get a shot at those bright students.”

Deshmukh’s professional relationship with Dr. Howard Dover, clinical professor of marketing and director of JSOM’s new Center for Professional Sales, gave him the confidence to invest in the emerging specialty.

“I’ve seen what Howard has done with students at other universities,” Deshmukh said. “He knows how to find ‘diamonds in the rough’ and turn them into sales professionals.”

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The Naveen Jindal School of Management

Department of Finance

The large number of highly qualified students from China who apply to the Jindal School’s MS in Finance degree program helped spur development of a new collaboration between UT Dallas and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. JSOM has launched a joint program with the Antai College of Economics at SJTU. The two-year curriculum leads to an MS in Finance, conferred by UT Dallas JSOM Executive Education. and a certificate from Antai College.

The program offers a concentration in investment management to prepare students for investment careers. “We’re extremely pleased to be selected as a recognized program,” Dr. David M. Cordell, a chartered financial analyst and associate coordinator of the Finance and Managerial Economics area, said. “It is an acknowledgment that the investment management track in our MS Finance program covers the educational material for the Chartered Financial Analyst charter, which is the premier, internationally recognized designation for security analysis and portfolio management.”

Through participation in this program, UT Dallas is eligible to receive a limited number of student scholarships for the CFA Program each year.

Because the Naveen Jindal School’s Master of Science in Finance program positions students well to obtain the charter’s financial analyst designation, the CFA Institute recently welcomed UT Dallas into its University Recognition Program.

CFA Institute, a global organization of more than 110,000 investment professionals that administers and awards the charter, made the designation. It concluded that the Jindal School’s MS in Finance program incorporates more than 70 percent of the CFA Program Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK) and places emphasis on the CFA Institute’s Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. The Jindal School’s MS in Finance program offers a concentration in investment management to prepare students for investment careers. “We’re extremely pleased to be selected as a recognized program,” Dr. David M. Cordell, a chartered financial analyst and associate coordinator of the Finance and Managerial Economics area, said. “It is an acknowledgment that the investment management track in our MS Finance program covers the educational material for the Chartered Financial Analyst charter, which is the premier, internationally recognized designation for security analysis and portfolio management.”

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New Finance Program Joins JSOM and University in Shanghai

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JSOM Finance Professor Yuxiao Xu and Harold Zhang co-direct the program, which is designed to provide both a broad knowledge base and in-depth skill sets so that students can pursue careers in investment management, financial analysis and risk management.

Yuxiao Xu

Harold Zhang

Jiao Tong University is among the top five universities in China,” Xu says. Two years ago, he and Zhang reached out to Antai College Dean Lin Zhou, who “was very interested in the program,” according to Zhang.

After Zhou and JSOM Dean Hasan Pirkul visited each other’s campuses and the framework of the program was approved, an inaugural class was admitted in the fall of 2012. After spending one year in Shanghai, taking courses from both institutions, those students are now here for a second full year at UT Dallas. “They are expected to complete their studies in August of 2014,” Zhang says. Meanwhile, a second cohort of about 20 students has started classes in Shanghai.

Visit jindal.utdallas.edu/utd-shanghai for more information.
New Real Estate Partnership Opens Opportunities for Students

The CCIM Institute has accepted the UT Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management as a university partner, putting graduate students in real estate on the fast track to earning its prestigious expert designation.

“This partnership is an industry validation of our program and provides direct benefits to the Jindal School with access to real-world case studies, market demographics, trend research and leading technology tools,” George DeCourcy, senior lecturer in finance and managerial economics and associate director of JSOM’s real estate concentrations, says.

The Jindal School is among about 40 universities in the Chicago-based CCIM Institute’s University Alliance Program. The application process includes a rigorous review of a university’s real estate courses, commitment and standards.

The CCIM Institute is an international trade association that has a mission to provide the highest standards of professionalism to the commercial real estate industry. The institute’s institute has accepted the UT Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management as a university partner, putting graduate students in real estate on the fast track to earning its prestigious expert designation.

“Our alumni can take advantage of the CCIM University Fast Track program that allows a waiver of certain core courses in pursuit of the CCIM designation,” DeCourcy says. The alliance also gives students access to various scholarships and networking opportunities, DeCourcy says.

“We are delighted to partner with CCIM in this exciting alliance program and are pleased to be able to offer additional benefits to our students and alumni,” Dr. Randall Guttery, director of JSOM real estate concentrations, says.

CCIM designees must complete more than 200 hours of education covering ethics, interest-based negotiation, financial analysis, market analysis, user-decision analysis and investment analysis for commercial real estate. Candidates also must compile portfolios demonstrating their real estate experience and pass a comprehensive exam.

 tied to the Naveen Jindal School of Management to build and locally teach a new team-building session. Infigen wanted to augment instruction to the Naveen Jindal School of Management in figen Director of Leadership Development Carley Cannon said, because Infigen wanted the Australian Graduate School of Management at the University of New South Wales, to teach a portion of the program.

“The University of Texas at Dallas was the only university that showed any flexibility to partner with us in a manner that made sense to us,” Cannon said.

“We saw this as an opportunity to build the trust of a new client,” Jindal School Assistant Dean for Executive Education and head of Corporate Education Tom Henderson said.

Infigen reached a team-building session, professional coaching for two dozen people, a module on continuous improvement, a venue for the program, and help organizing logistics, including meals and lodging.

“We were thrilled when Corporate Education embraced the opportunity and began to work with us with such competence along every step of the way,” Cannon said.

All the modules and moving parts came together for a week at the Jindal School.

“Thank you so much for this training,” Infigen CEO Craig Carson later wrote Tom Henderson. “UT Dallas has done a great job.”

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New Measures Reflect Local Economic Vitality

BY DAVID SPRINGATE, PHD

The Center for Finance Strategy Innovation is now tracking a wider set of data in its indexes that follow the North Texas business community. And the latest indexes show that for the past several years, that community financially has fared better than its state and U.S. counterparts.

The center’s ongoing quarterly Index of Financial Health and Index of Financial Flexibility initially reported results starting in 2009 for the 50 largest public companies headquartered in North Texas. Both indexes have been broadened so that trends for those 50 companies can now be compared with similarly calculated indexes for all publicly traded firms in the region regardless of size, with all listed Texas firms and with all listed U.S. companies.

The CFSI indexes also have been expanded to include data and trends for the period 2007 to second quarter 2013. The Index of Financial Health illustrates that the largest North Texas firms report a consistently higher index of financial health than all comparative groupings. While it is too early to make definite conclusions or explanations, over the last seven years, which include the recession and recovery periods, the data show:

• Location within the United States may matter: Companies headquartered in Texas — all sizes in general — have done better than U.S. firms in general.

• Location within Texas may not be important: North Texas firms unsorted by size show about the same level of financial health as Texas firms unsorted by size.

• The best financial health is exhibited by the largest companies. The largest public firms in the North Texas region have, on the average, exhibited more financial health than the other three groupings — firms of all sizes in the North Texas region, Texas firms and U.S. firms.

The index now is close to looking like the inverse of the Index of Financial Health. Although it is at a higher level, the fall and subsequent rise of the financial health index is steeper for the largest North Texas firms than that shown by the other groupings of companies investigated. Perhaps the industry mix or geographic areas of operation of locally headquartered firms causes those results. Perhaps the largest number of firms in the comparison group produces shallower rises and falls in the index.

Financial Flexibility — Restated

The Index of Financial Flexibility is changed. It has been redefined, and data have been calculated from 2007 to second quarter 2013. The restated index measures corporate attempts to gain more flexibility and make fewer binding financial commitments compared to the previous year. The percentage of firms showing reduced long-term debt, and make fewer binding financial commitments compared to the previous year. The percentage of firms showing reduced long-term debt, and make fewer binding financial commitments compared to the previous year. The percentage of firms showing reduced long-term debt, and make fewer binding financial commitments compared to the previous year.

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Also, Texas firms moved toward flexibility at a faster rate than U.S. firms in general. Again, these results may reflect the mix of the 50 largest firms or the averaging effect in the larger number of companies.

Both for Texas firms and large North Texas firms, the juxtaposition of moves toward financial flexibility and improvement in financial health is interesting. Perhaps there is an explanation as opposed to a coincidence. CFSI work continues to find viable associations and significant implications of the index data.

NEW MEASURES REFLECT LOCAL ECONOMIC VITALITY

The Index of Financial Health is an equally weighted index incorporating four measures of economic improvement: (percent of firms with higher sales, percent with higher profit margins, percent with lower inventory to sales, percent with higher return on assets) all calculated for the previous year and one measure of profitability (percent of firms with positive profit).

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Charles F. Hazzard, an award-winning professor who came to the Naveen Jindal School of Management after retiring as executive vice president-administration from the Occidental Chemical Corporation (OxyChem), is the new director of the ISOM-based Center for International Accounting. Oil and Gas.

Appointed by ISOM Dean Hasan Pirkl, whom he serves as an adviser, Hazzard succeeds the late Dr. Adolf J.H. Enthoven, the center and program’s founder, who died March 15.

“Dr. Enthoven was irreplaceable in both vision and academic accomplishment,” Hazzard said. “However, longtime Program Administrator Donna Nix and I plan to build on what he began and grow his work in both scope and numbers.”

Hazzard, who has taught in the center’s annual international program in oil and gas financial management several years, earned the Jindal School’s Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2010 and the campus-wide UT Dallas President’s Outstanding Teaching Award in 2011. Hazzard came to UT Dallas a decade ago. He earned a BA from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. In a 33-year executive career, he worked at Ford, Citigroup and Olin before joining OxyChem. He spent 17 years at OxyChem, which continues to be the No. 1 oil producer in Texas and the No. 1 gas producer in California.

The center’s Advanced International Program in Oil and Gas Financial Management, a three-week curriculum offered every spring on the UT Dallas campus, observed its 35th anniversary this year.

Charles Hazzard Appointed Director of International Accounting Center

BENSOUSSAN AWARDED NSF GRANT

The National Science Foundation has awarded Dr. Alain Bensoussan, Ashbel Smith Professor and director of the International Center for Decision and Risk Analysis, a grant of $339,570 to study mean field game theory, the study of individual decision-making within large groups. The project, “Mean Field Games, Mean Field Type Control and Extensions,” will be recapped in a forthcoming mathematics brief from international academic publisher Springer. The book, Mean Field Games and Mean Field Type Control Theory, by Bensoussan and co-authors Jens Frehse of the University of Bonn and Philip Yam of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, is slated for release late this year. A professor of risk and decision analysis, Bensoussan leads the center in developing risk-management research pertaining to large-investment industrial projects that involve new technologies, applications and markets. He said he was excited about the three-year NSF project, which centers on a popular and growing area of research that has been developed only in the past decade. He said that much of the research so far has been done in other countries, and he looks forward to the opportunity for UT Dallas to make a contribution to advance mean field game theory. The domain has been motivated by economics and finance, Bensoussan said, but it can be applied to various areas, for instance, traffic control. Both theory and applications have to be further expanded, he said.

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Alain Bensoussan

Charles F. Hazzard

Bensoussan

The Naveen Jindal School of Management
PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM: Parkland VP Shares Lessons Learned

If you are building a $1.2 billion hospital about the same size as the Dallas Cowboys football stadium, skilled project management is critical for keeping construction on time and on budget, says an official overseeing the new Parkland Health and Hospital System facility.

Walter Jones, Parkland’s senior vice president for facilities planning and development, was one of the keynote speakers who headlined the 7th Annual UT Dallas Project Management Symposium recently held at the Naveen Jindal School of Management. The conference, “Project Management: Optimizing Value to Stakeholders,” featured more than 60 speakers. They addressed about 400 project managers from a variety of fields, including construction, healthcare and transportation. JSOM’s Executive Education Project Management Program, in cooperation with PMI Dallas Chapter and PM World Journal, sponsored the two-day event.

Parkland is replacing its old home, which has been a fixture in Dallas since 1934, with a new facility. When it opens to patients in 2015, Jones said, the new facility will represent the latest and most advanced thinking in healthcare facilities planning and design.

For more information on the 2013 symposium, go to utdallas.edu/pm-symposium.
Jindal School PhD student Steve Sauerwald, who took home two best paper awards from the Academy of Management’s (AOM) August 2013 annual conference, a rare feat for a doctoral student.

“This year’s AOM meeting was attended by more than 8,300 scholars from 88 countries, with a total of 6,200 papers submitted. It truly is the global academic Olympic Games,” Dr. Mike Peng, Sauerwald’s adviser, said. About one-third of all submitted papers were accepted by the competitive program, according to Peng, who heads the Jindal Chair of Global Strategy and is coordinator of the school’s Organizations, Strategy and International Management area. Of those, less than 1 percent received best paper awards.

Sauerwald’s award-winning papers offer new insights into corporate governance issues, including CEO pay, social networks and shareholder proxy activism. They also highlight the need for effective corporate governance in the area of philanthropic spending.

In the AOM’s Business Policy and Strategy Division, Sauerwald captured a Distinguished Paper award with "Board Social Capital and Excess CEO Compensation." A fourth-year doctoral student, Sauerwald co-authored the paper with Peng and Jindal School colleague, Zhiang Lin. The work examines the importance of social networks and their impact on corporate boards’ ability to monitor CEO pay.

Sauerwald won the AOM’s Best Paper Award in the Social Issues in Management Division for "Is Corporate Philanthropy an Agency Cost? The Moderating Role of Corporate Governance," a work he co-authored with recent JSOM doctoral graduate, Weichien Su.

Graduate student Samir Patel, who earned the highest score in the world on the June Bloomberg Aptitude Test. Since then, Patel reports, he not only has been contacted by the director of global recruiting for the management consulting firm, McKinsey and Company, but he also has received an inquiry from Goldman Sachs. Pursuing dual master’s degrees in business administration and supply chain management, Patel also has learned of promising new opportunities in the world of hedge funds and money management.

An assessment for students seeking careers in finance or business, the Bloomberg Aptitude Test has been taken by more than 100,000 people worldwide and is used by employers to recruit top international talent. While Patel’s record-setting feat and the publicity it has generated have made him a recognizable figure on the UT Dallas campus, he says his past experience as a young National Spelling Bee contestant has enabled him to keep this latest accomplishment in perspective. “I remind myself that if I want to reach the level of my career mentors and other role models, I still have a lot of learning and hard work ahead of me,” he said.

Kristin Burt Haggard, a Class of 2014 Executive MBA student, recently presented with the Young Executive of the Year Award, Civilian Category, by the DRW Chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association. Air Force Colonel Roger L. Neumann, the chapter’s president, recognized Haggard for her ability to effectively reduce military spending during times of budget cuts. Haggard won an identical award for the southwestern region of the US, and on September 19 was recognized with a national NDTRA Distinguished Service Award.

Haggard served eight years in the U. S. Army and attained the rank of captain before turning her attention in 2010 to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), where she has since served as a transportation analyst. She is responsible for everything from reducing freight costs to promoting cooperation between transportation agencies within the Department of Defense. Leading a team of AAFES associates, Haggard was able to cut Defense Department spending by $10 million in 2012 and is on target to meet end-of-the-year reduction goals of $14 million set by the U.S. Army.

Carlie Wolford-Chen, a graduate student pursuing both a master's degree in marketing and an MBA, who was named the Sam Bloom Memorial Scholarship winner for 2013. The award was presented in April by the Dallas chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) and the AAF Dallas Foundation in honor of legendary Dallas advertising executive Sam Bloom, founder of Sam Bloom Advertising, and AAF Dallas’ 1972 Ad Man of the Year.

Wolford-Chen’s selection was based on her passion for advertising, her commitment to furthering her education and to her drive, according to AAF Dallas.

“It means a lot to have my peers and colleagues see potential in me and want to support my educational goals,” Wolford-Chen says. She began her professional career six years ago after earning a BS in advertising from The University of Texas at Austin, and since August 2012, she has worked as digital media supervisor at TracyLocke marketing agency in Dallas.

Junior accounting major Sixuan (Veronica) Wang, who had no idea she had won a $5,000 scholarship from Ernst and Young until her boyfriend told her that he had seen her name on the Web page of Ascend, the non-profit organization through which the scholarship was being awarded.

After a phone call to Ascend headquarters, Wang, treasurer of the JSOM-based UT Dallas student chapter, said she found a congratulatory letter in her junk email box. A required essay, her résumé and a phone interview had put her in contention in the competitive selection process.

In August, she was one of 12 students nationally to receive a corporate scholarship during Ascend’s 2013 National Convention in Anaheim, California.

Wang came to the U.S. from China in 2009. She is in her second year at UT Dallas, where she said her membership in Ascend has made all the difference: "There are lots of networking opportunities. As officers, we plan and organize events together, and it helps me practice both my teamwork and leadership skills."

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ADVISORY COUNCIL ALUMNUS CONTINUES THE CYCLE OF OPPORTUNITY

Kevin Ryan, MBA 1995, maintains a rapid pace in his career as chief financial officer and senior vice president at Merit Energy Company, a private firm specializing in direct investments in oil and gas assets. He also drives momentum in his volunteer role as a member of the Jindal School’s Advisory Council.

Among other responsibilities, advisory council members are asked to help identify individuals and corporations capable of supporting the Jindal School. Ryan and his wife, Cristi, personally responded by establishing the Kevin and Cristi Ryan Opportunity Fund, with an initial investment of $10,000. The endowment provides support to the Jindal School, and the benefits will be received in perpetuity.

For Ryan, establishing the fund presented an opportunity to spread up success for JSOM in the Campaign for Tier One and Beyond. “I felt compelled to make a greater commitment to the Jindal School after serving on the advisory council for several years and experiencing firsthand the exceptional faculty and innovative research taking place on campus,” he said.

“I HOPE MY GIFT ALLOWS OTHERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY AND ACHIEVE THEIR EDUCATIONAL GOALS, JUST AS I DID — AND BE INSPIRED TO GIVE AND CONTINUE THE CYCLE FOR OTHER STUDENTS.”

— Kevin Ryan

Ryan attributes much of his professional success to his JSOM educational experiences. He and Cristi earned accounting degrees from UT Austin, and Ryan followed the example of his father, Terrence Ryan, who earned a BS in business administration from the School of Management in 1981. “It is important for me,” Kevin Ryan said, “to give back to the UT Dallas community that provided me with numerous opportunities for growth and professional development. It’s critical to make sure you’re developing the people below you, giving them opportunities and experiences so they could step into your shoes.”

A supporter of the Jindal School for more than 20 years, Ryan also serves on the UT System Chancellor’s Council Executive Committee, a leadership group that supports and provides counsel to the system’s administrative leader, Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa, MD.

“I hope my gift allows others the opportunity to attend this great university and achieve their educational goals, just as I did — and be inspired to give and continue the cycle for other students.”

For more information on creating an opportunity fund, visit www.utdallas.edu/campaign.

The Jindal School recently launched U40, a new group for young alumni that provides opportunities for community-service projects, career networking and social activities. All JSOM alumni 40 years old and younger — recent graduates and seasoned professionals alike — are encouraged to join and reconnect with classmates, develop new relationships and build strong connections to the Jindal School. U40 membership is $40 and includes several membership benefits, such as spirit items and free admission to PowerGrid events. Learn more at jindal.utdallas.edu/alumni/40.
1980s
Scott Birnbaum. BS 1984, a former CPA, founded Dallas-based Reclaimed Textiles Co. (RTCM), collectively recycles companies that repurpose discarded textiles, shoes, and other leather or durable goods. “Each month we process and turn back into 4 million pounds of refuse,” he says. “Like other companies, we have to make a profit, and employ 150 people and operate out of two plants.” Beyond that, we support hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and around the world.”

1990s
When management consultant Pat Bywaters, MBA, 1993, is not helping clients, he can be found volunteering in the “task force” that saved a historic downtown Dallas building, SBP Park. Once restoration and renovation is complete, SBP Park will only be available to The Stewpot, a ministry that serves the homeless, to expand its programs and resources, it will house the future home of First Central Dallas Ministries.

“If I’ve figured anything out about life,” Bywaters says about his efforts to help convert the old Werner Brothers Film Exchange at SBP Park into a cross-section of cultural attractions and social spaces. “Cash-flow projections, strategy, branding, marketing, information systems, project management and morale are all coming into play.”

As an undergraduate student, Bywaters also led the effort to install “108 Park”

The Post Meets the Future,” an exhibit about the building, at the Fine Arts District of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in downtown Dallas. The exhibit will run through at least the end of the year.

In 2009, Bywaters came back to the Jindal School to earn a Professional Certificate in Supply Chain Management. He is a second-generation UT Dallas alum. His mother, Nancy Lontos, earned both a bachelor’s (1979) and a master’s (1983) degree from the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences.

Ph. Neighorn, BA 1995, MBA 2001, was recently named managing director, Marka USA Central Zone Success Process Leader. He now manages 40 employees and 17 offices. He balances his time between working for Marka, a leading insurance brokerage and risk management firm, and mentoring Jindal School stu- dents. With more than 16 years of experience as an insurance professional he says he is committed to helping both audiences develop business strategies to successfully reach growth. Whether assessing an international client or providing advice to a prospective student, he regularly shares his extensive industry knowledge along with the skills he developed while earning his degree.

Before joining Marka, he worked for Safeco Insur- ance Company, where he started as an underwriter and advanced to territory manager.

Laura Garrison, EMBA, 1995, has accepted the role of senior director of consumer insights and ana- lysis for The Home Depot headquarters in Atlanta. In this role, she leads the company’s insights function with the overall objective of accelerating the compa- ny’s growth and competes positioning in the marketplace. Laura was most recently senior director of finance for the Western Division. Her previous roles at The Home Depot involved serving as director of financial planning and budgeting for the entire North American paint and hardware category. Earlier, she served as director of marketing at The Home Depot.

2000s
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth ordained James A. Wilcox III, BS 2000, to the priesthood on June 29, and celebrated his first Mass at its home parishes, St. Catherine of Siena Church in Carrollton, Texas.

Project coordinator for the priesthood, Father Wil-cox earned a MBA at UT Arlington and worked as a publishing company. He studied at Assumption Sem- inary in San Antonio and graduated from the Jindal School of Business in San Antonio with a Bachelor of Science degree in Theology, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology degrees. He now serves as pastor of Holy Apostles Church in North Richland Hills, Texas.

Chad Schiefer, MBA 2001, and Brian Livington, MS 2002, were chosen from among more than 300 nominees this year and named to the annual list of “40 Under 40” compiled by the Dallas Business Journal. The honor recognizes accomplished professionals with a “proven track record in both business and community involvement.”

A third UT Dallas alumna of the School of Eco- nomics, Political and Policy Sciences, Dan Healy, BA 2000, also made the list.

Schaefer (below) is director of client services at The Bank Group, an international full-service builder based in Dallas. He has completed Leadership in En- ergy and Environmental Design — LEED — accreditation and a Master’s of Corporate Real Estate designation. Active in The Real Estate Council, an organization of North Texas real estate professionals and companies, he serves on TRCEC’s Technical Assistance Committees. He also is active in CityDaypas (formerbspot.com), a Dallas city leader.

Livington (at left) is chief financial officer of the Findlay Furniture Group, parent company of El Faro and Mesa Home restaurants. In the course of his career, he has served on the executive committee for Pur- pleStone DFW 2013, a fundraiser in the light against domestic sexual assault and child pornography. In 2013, he was one of the co- chairs for the Dallas November 9 event, a 5K timed event. Their profiles appeared in the August 30 issue of the publication.

David Wedemeyer, BS 1992, MBA 2005, and his close friends co-founded Martin House Brewing Com- pany in Fort Worth. Martin House is recently housed in a JSP OrtGaming& alumni event.

David previously worked at Nixan in an executive management position, where he was responsible for overseeing the company’s operations. While still employed at Nixan, David advanced to a management position.

“My role at Martin House is to wear many hats.” He says he is involved in just about every aspect of the company. I make strategic marketing decisions, am responsible for much of our accounting, help plan for future developments, seek new opportunities for growth, manage customer relations and keep the day-to-day business operations running smoothly. At Martin House, I have the ability to directly influence the future of the company. I would not have the ability I did not start my own company.”

David met his wife, Jennifer Dunn, BA 2003, MA 2005, while at UT Dallas.

Angelica Barriga, BS 2003, MBA 2008, is a director of global business process management at ADIVA - Optical Networking, a telecommunications vendor based in Germany. She oversees the business (life)cycle process across global sales, marketing and service organizations. She also implements process improvements to enhance operational efficiencies. An advocate for both sustainability and business strategies organizational behavior, in an environment of emerging technologies, helped co-led a book chapter in developing a business strategy.

Angelica says do one thing you have one hobby, she has many interests. “My favorite thing is to try something I have never done before,” she says. “I always keep a running wish list, and when I complete something, I add something new. Whether it’s trying a new sport, a new food or visiting a new country. I like the excitement and anticipation of doing something for the first time.”

Bate A. Bate, MBA 2002, vice president and senior portfolio manager at Union Bank, helps clients with new-client loans, assist clients with new-product development, acquisitions and mergers, and appraise technical asset management abilities to determine the potential for project success. His portfolio includes resource management and gas and utility, where he began his career. He currently heads Schum- berger, a technology and integrated project manage- ment provider, as a lead engineer based in the Rocky Mountain region and eventually was transferred to Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Bate was most recently senior vice president at the Full-time MBA program at the Jindal School, he interned at Haliburton Investor Relations. After graduation, he joined Faramig- ton Oil Gas Companies, a Dallas-based company with offshore operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

Adam Vibisino (EMBA 2003), and his wife, Anna, are shown here with the piece of art they donated to the Jindal School in recognition of Adam’s 10-year EMBA class anniversary. Adam commissioned the piece of sculpture from his friend, Maria Wijukta, an artist in Poland.

Adam and Anna were invited campus and presented the-in-locum gift.

Titled “Golden Gate” the sculpture, made of wood and brass, hangs in the Executive Education area lounge.

Craig Weigel, MBA 2003, is the human resources director for the PGA of America. Weigel has more than 18 years, Craig has worked for multiple Fortune 100 global companies in various roles, including recruiting manager and acquisitions, compensation, and business partnership. He is most proud of his short- term projects in Asia and Europe, which broadened his cultural awareness and global business knowledge.

In his free time he enjoys doing community service, outdoor activities, traveling and spending time with his family and friends. He and his wife have two sons.

Joanna Fowler, BS 2004, MBA 2009, is the assis- tant director of the Pavilon Jindal School of Manage- ment Full Time MBA program. She says some of the job achievements that make her proud include success- fully launching the first MBA Open House for prospective MBA students and helping them determine the potential for their particular program. With an English as well as advertising BA from SPUI, Gregg originally wanted to be a poet, but jokes, “I decided instead to go after the big money in non- profit management.” Before joining PEP’s staff in 2012, Gregg served as a volunteer member of the organiza- tion’s Board of Directors for five years.

Previously Gregg was the executive director of the B’nai B’rith PLAN Fund, which often made loans to PEP graduates.

With an MBA from UT Dallas, I was really intrigued with what I saw as the ability to apply business principles toward really tough social problems and deliver socially measurable results,” Gregg says. “I think UTD helped me think differently about my own life. It helped me, I believe, understand the purpose of my education was not just for my own benefit but for the benefit of the world around me.”