

THE NAVEEN JINDAL SCHOOL OF  
**MANAGEMENT**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

VOLUME 15 No. 1 AUTUMN 2011

One  
Historic  
Moment





EXCELLENCE HAS TWO NEW NAMES

*The University of Texas at Dallas is proud to celebrate the naming of*

The Naveen Jindal School of Management  
*and*  
The Davidson Management Honors Program

*In honor of our Distinguished Alumni*

Naveen Jindal, MBA 1992 (*on front cover*)

*and*

Charles Davidson, MS 1980, and Nancy Davidson, BS 1980 (*above*)





**Hasan Pirkul**  
Dean and Caruth Chair  
of Management

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

When I became dean of The School of Management 15 years ago, the university enrolled just under 9,400 students in the fall semester of 1996 and employed 225 professors. Of those students, 2,252 registered in the SOM, whose faculty numbered 45 professors. Both the university leadership and I believed that UT Dallas was destined to become a national university.

To achieve this, I was charged with the goal of leading the school to national and international prominence. We needed to increase our enrollments with more excellent students. We also needed more outstanding faculty and more cutting-edge academic programs. We believed that recognition and rankings would follow if we were truly committed and created excellence in our school.

This fall, UT Dallas enrollment stands at 19,000+. The School of Management has 6,316 students and 157 professors. Now, too, various academic programs in the school — including the Executive MBA, Full-Time MBA, Professional (Part-Time) MBA and Management Information System curriculums — are highly ranked by *Financial Times*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *BusinessWeek*. And the school is internationally recognized for our faculty's research prowess as well as our innovative, high-quality programs.

No school can be successful without committed friends and alumni. Our alumni and friends have been a constant source of support and strength. By the time this magazine reaches you, we will have named our school as well as our undergraduate honors program after three of our alumni. The new school name, The Naveen Jindal School of Management, recognizes Naveen Jindal, a prominent businessman and statesman. The Davidson Management Honors Program recognizes Charles (Chuck) and Nancy Davidson. An oil and gas executive, Chuck met Nancy, now a community volunteer, while they were at UT Dallas.

A 1992 MBA alum, Naveen Jindal returned home after graduating to direct the development of Jindal Steel and Power Limited, a leading conglomerate in India as well as internationally. He also began a career in government service and is in his second term as a member of India's Parliament, where he is widely recognized as a rising star.

Naveen Jindal's generosity here will underwrite student scholarships and fellowships and chaired professorships. It will create new centers of scholarly excellence and fund new programs and innovations. It will open our doors wider to the world.

His gift is a fitting tribute to our school as well as to the Dallas-Fort Worth area that has a long tradition of welcoming international students. It is no accident that Dallas-Fort Worth has become a hub of global commerce. Kudos to the region for embracing students from distant lands and for adopting a global outlook. Our neighbors in all of North Texas deserve credit for their role in bringing this gift our way.

Chuck Davidson, a 1980 MS in Management and Administrative Sciences graduate, and Nancy Gundy Davidson, a 1980 BS in Business and Public Administration alumna, now live in Houston, where Chuck is chairman and CEO of Noble Energy. Their latest gift is their third high-impact commitment to the school. Their first, in 2001, helped us realize the dream of having one building to house all school programs. The Davidsons' latest contribution will upgrade to chaired professorships the four faculty positions they endowed in 2006. Their new gift also creates a fellows program to support students at the master's and PhD levels. Matching funds will endow the undergraduate honors program that now carries their name.

In response to this giving, The University of Texas Board of Regents has approved construction of an addition adjacent and adjoining our current building. The new addition, which will be ready in three years, will give us much-needed space to accommodate future growth and to maintain exceptional education standards.

The gifts from Naveen Jindal and the Davidsons and the matching funds from the state, UT System and UT Dallas represent a new investment in our school of \$50 million. This support is transformational in nature. Its impact will be felt going forward because of endowments it establishes that will sustain excellence among our students and faculty in perpetuity. These gifts will enable us to attract outstanding new students and increase access to a great education for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students. We will be able to recruit and retain eminent educators and researchers, who will, in turn, advance our programs and press the knowledge boundaries of our disciplines forward.

On behalf of the entire school, I offer many, many thanks to Naveen Jindal, Chuck and Nancy Davidson, and to our friends and alumni who have sustained us over the years. Profoundly grateful and deeply moved, we dedicate this issue of the magazine to them. I also want to thank the UT System and UT Dallas leadership for their foresight and trust in our school. Going forward, we will continue to celebrate the belief shown in us by redoubling our efforts to provide our students with the highest quality education possible. They deserve nothing less.

Best wishes,

Visit our site on the worldwide Web

<http://som.utdallas.edu>

### PUBLISHER

Dr. Hasan Pirkul  
Dean and Caruth Chair  
of Management

### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Dr. Diane Seay McNulty  
Associate Dean for External  
Affairs and Corporate Development

### MANAGING EDITOR

Kristine Imherr

### ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

ThinkHaus Creative, Inc.  
Dorit Suffness  
Principal

### ILLUSTRATION

Miler Hung

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Randy Anderson  
Aaron Conley  
Randy Eli Grothe  
Kristine Imherr  
Gerry Kano  
Heywood McNeill  
Kathryn McNeill  
Mary Jane Partain  
Richard Michael Pruitt  
Ken Sharp  
Brian L. Wiest

### WRITERS

Harriet L. Blake  
Paula Felts  
Jill Glass  
Kristine Imherr  
Jimmie R. Markham  
Donna Steph Rian  
Jeanne Spreier

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**On the cover:** Naveen Jindal, MBA 1992  
alumnus and new namesake of the school

VOLUME 15, No. 1 AUTUMN 2011

# THE NAVEEN JINDAL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

## ONE HISTORIC MOMENT

2

### One Historic Moment

*Kristine A. Imherr*

Three School of Management graduates recently gave UT Dallas two record-setting alumni gifts. These philanthropic commitments are targeted to the SOM and bring it to the threshold of a new era of excellence.

4

Naveen Jindal — Philanthropist Leader Shows the Way

5

Chuck and Nancy Davidson — Inspiring Couple Step Forward Again

6

David E. Daniel — President of The University of Texas at Dallas

7

Hasan Pirkul — Dean of the UT Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management

8

Visionary Giving

9

### Distinguished Alumni 2011

*Jimmie R. Markham*

10

### Going Forward....Giving Back

*Paula Felts*

The Executive MBA Class of 2011 set new standards of action and leadership.

12

### New Advisory Council Members

*Donna Steph Rian*



4



5

### DEPARTMENTS

13 New Faculty

16 Faculty News

18 Program Updates

22 Center and Conference News

24 Student News

26 Alumni News

29 Contributors



# The School of Management Receives a \$50 Million Investment

The school and its honors program are named for three alumni donors. UT System OKs an SOM building addition.

By: Kristine A. Imherr

The School of Management recently has received the two largest alumni gifts ever given at UT Dallas. Valued at \$30 million, this exemplary philanthropy brings the school endowed scholarships and fellowships for students, endowed professorships for faculty and a new research center.

Additionally, in light of this support, the UT System has approved a \$20 million funding program to build a 100,000 square-foot addition to the school's building.

The impact value of this support totals \$50 million, given the gifts, matching funds and investment in the addition.

To recognize the transformative impact of these gifts, The University of Texas System Board of Regents has approved naming The School of Management as well as the school's honors program in honor of the donors.

The Naveen Jindal School of Management, the new school name, honors Naveen Jindal, an Indian industrialist and statesman who earned an MBA from The School of Management in 1992 (see *Naveen Jindal – Philanthropist Leader Shows the Way* on page 4).

The Davidson Management Honors Program, the new name of the undergraduate honors program, is a tribute to Charles and Nancy Davidson, MS in Management and Administrative Sciences in 1980 and BS in Business and Public Administration in 1980, respectively (see *Charles and Nancy Davidson – Inspiring Couple Step Forward Again* on page 5). Now based in Houston, the Davidsons met while they were UT Dallas students. A CPA and former accounting

teacher, Nancy Davidson now devotes her time to family and community interests. Charles (Chuck) Davidson is chairman and CEO of Noble Energy, Inc.

### The Naveen Jindal School of Management

The contribution from Mr. Jindal, of Delhi, India, includes a \$5 million match from the UT System Board of Regents' Research Incentive Program and the state's Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP). The funds will endow faculty chairs to be assigned to top scholars. They also will be used to establish a permanent student scholarship fund as well as a "Sustaining Excellence Fund," unrestricted money to allow the school to quickly meet needs and take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

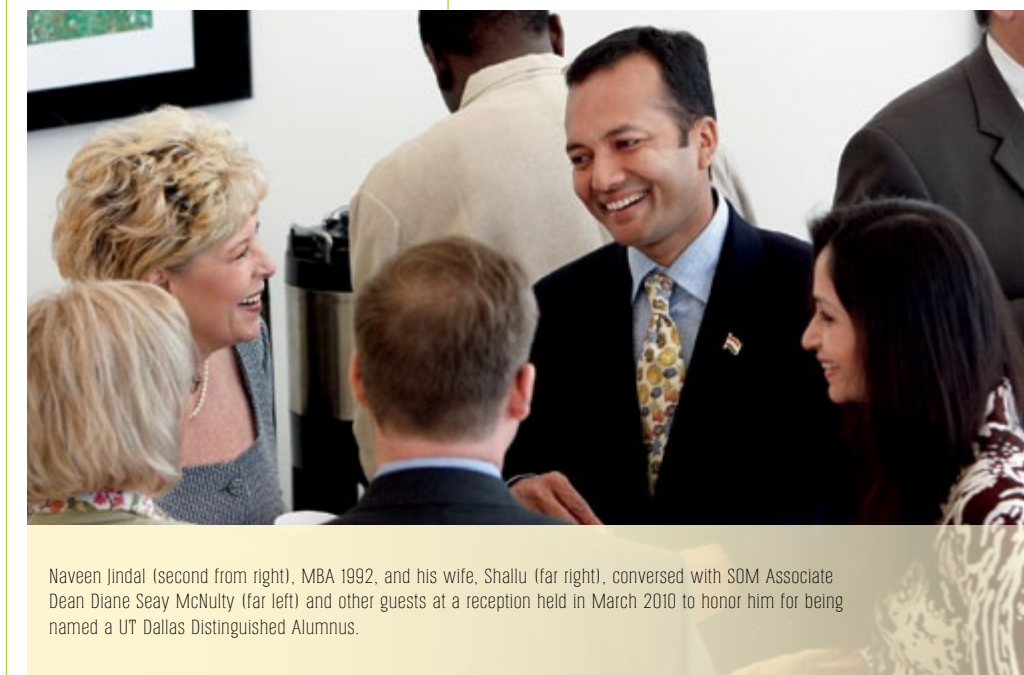
Some funds also will go toward creation of the Naveen Jindal Institute for Indo-American Studies. The new center will study

economic and trade relations between the United States and India and further academic collaborations between the two countries.

"I owe a lot to The University of Texas at Dallas and especially to the business school, as this is where I spent almost two years learning about leadership and business," Mr. Jindal said about his decision to make a large-impact contribution.

"I am a product of UTD," he added, "and very proud to have graduated from UTD, and it is an honor to be able to do something for my university."

After graduating from UT Dallas, Mr. Jindal returned to India to assume executive roles at Jindal Power and Steel Limited (JSPL). Part of a family conglomerate that grew from the steel-pipe trading ventures Mr. Jindal's late father, O.P. Jindal, began in the 1950s, JSPL keeps steel manufacturing as its core business and ranks among



Naveen Jindal (second from right), MBA 1992, and his wife, Shallu (far right), conversed with SOM Associate Dean Diane Seay McNulty (far left) and other guests at a reception held in March 2010 to honor him for being named a UT Dallas Distinguished Alumnus.

**Naveen Jindal** — Philanthropist Leader Shows the Way



In the almost two decades since Naveen Jindal earned his MBA from UT Dallas in 1992, he has thrived beyond his college successes to become a leading industrialist, ascendant statesman and driving force for higher education in his home country of India.

Named a UT Dallas Distinguished Alumnus last year, he recently targeted support to The School of Management in the largest alumni gift ever given UT Dallas. His support, together with that of fellow alumni Charles and Nancy Davidson, is valued at \$30 million.

"It's very important to build institutions of higher learning," Mr. Jindal said about the philosophy behind his philanthropy.

"My vision and desire is that The [Naveen Jindal] School of Management becomes the school of choice for some of the brightest and best individuals who will truly lead us into the next generation, leaders who will truly embrace the global vision [and] balance the needs of the people with the environment in an ethical and sustainable manner."

In memory of his late father, Om Prakash Jindal, Mr. Jindal started the O.P. Jindal Global University in his home state of Haryana, India. JGU focuses on business, international affairs, law and public policy. Through it, Mr. Jindal, who is chancellor, said, "We hope to make a meaningful contribution to knowledge creation and

nation building."

Mr. Jindal's business career has roots in the O.P. Jindal Group, the multibillion-dollar family conglomerate his father built from steel-pipe trading ventures in the 1950s. The youngest of O.P.'s four sons, Naveen serves as chairman and managing director of Jindal Steel and Power Limited, a steel manufacturer that has diversified into cement production, mining, oil and gas, and power generation. Mr. Jindal is credited with changing JSPL from a money loser to a vigorous achiever. Named to the *Forbes Asia* list of Fab 50 Companies in 2009 and 2010, JSPL also was rated the No. 2 value creator in the world, based on total shareholder return, in 2010 Boston Consulting Group rankings.

A national record holder in India for skeet shooting and an adept polo player, Mr. Jindal was described in a 2009 *Forbes Asia* profile as "more interested in sports than in the family trade" as a youth. But at UT Dallas, he found another passion, politics. He served first as Student Government vice president, then president, at the same time earning the Student Leader of the Year Award.

Inspired by frequent and proud displays of the U.S. flag on campus, Mr. Jindal later successfully challenged India's Flag Code, which allowed the banner to be put on view only on special occasions. The seven-year court battle birthed his parliamentary career. Like his father before him, Mr. Jindal won a seat in the Lok Sabha, Parliament's lower house. He serves his home district of Kurukshetra. Now in his second five-year term, he champions health and educational facilities for his district. He also backs a clean environment, a hunger-free society, an end to corruption, population stabilization, women's empowerment and sports of all kinds. ■

the top 10 producers in India. However, the company has diversified into cement production, mining, oil and gas, and power generation. Named earlier this year by *The Economic Times* of Delhi as one of India's 10 most powerful CEOs, Mr. Jindal serves as JSPL's chairman and managing director.

He also serves his country as a member of India's Parliament. Now in his second term, he represents Kurukshetra, his home district, which lies about 100 miles north of Delhi in the state of Haryana.

Mr. Jindal nurtured a nascent interest in politics and government at UT Dallas.

"I had my first opportunity to experience leadership by being a senator in the Student Government," he said. Elected vice president in 1991, he went on to become president and earn the Student Leader of the Year Award.

While he was at UT Dallas, a friend gave him an Indian flag, the Tiranga, and,

**Chuck and Nancy Davidson** — Inspiring Couple Step Forward Again

Partners in life since they met during their UT Dallas student days three decades ago, Charles (Chuck) and Nancy Davidson are also partners in giving.

Initially, their teamwork enabled Mr. Davidson's career to thrive as they relocated around Texas and to Alaska and home again. In time, his upward progress in the energy industry allowed them to give back from a life he has called richly rewarded.

Longtime supporters of The Naveen Jindal School of Management, the couple in 2001 gave the first major alumni gift toward construction of the building that now houses the school. In 2006, another gift established four endowed faculty research professorships. Most recently, the Davidsons gave the school the second-largest alumni gift in UT Dallas history.

Their generosity is driven in part by the fact, Mr. Davidson says, that "both Nancy and I greatly benefited from our education at UT Dallas. We are fortunate to be in a position now where we can contribute back so that future students may also benefit from this outstanding institution."

"We also understand the need," Mrs. Davidson says, "for alumni to come forward with gifts in order to attract the support of other donors, as well as from the legislature."

Chuck Davidson met Nancy Gundy through friends. Both graduated from The School of Management in 1980, he with an MS in management and administrative sciences; she with a BS in business and public adminis-

tration. Their work relocations began after they married in 1981. He held various engineering, operations and executive positions at Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO). Part of an executive team that started Vastar Resources in 1994, Mr. Davidson served as chairman, president and CEO of that Houston-based concern. In 2000, he joined Noble Energy, Inc., an independent crude oil and natural gas exploration and production company also headquartered in Houston. He serves as chairman and CEO.

An industry activist, Mr. Davidson is chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America's Offshore Committee and sits on the boards of the Gas Technology Institute and the Offshore Energy Center. He also sits on the UT Dallas Development Board. Along with his wife, Mr. Davidson also backs diverse civic causes.

Mrs. Davidson turned to family, community and volunteerism after one move that coincided with the adoption of their son. Prior to that, she had worked as a CPA and taught accounting at The University of Texas at Tyler.

Named School of Management Distinguished Alumnus in 2002 and UT Dallas Distinguished Alumnus in 2008, the two are consummate boosters among their fellow graduates. "We are always excited to see alumni support flowing to UT Dallas," Mr. Davidson says, "and we were delighted to know that UT Dallas was seeking to recognize Mr. Jindal for his generosity...by naming the SOM in his honor." ■



Mr. Jindal remembered, "I experienced the joy and inspiration of displaying the national flag."

Back home at that time, India's Flag Code permitted private citizens to display the banner only on special occasions. Prompted by U.S. flag-flying freedoms, he subsequently

championed the same rights for his fellow citizens in a successful seven-year court battle that launched his political career.

Speaking of his crusade's campus beginnings, Mr. Jindal said: "Overall, it was a great learning experience for me, and I owe a lot to UTD for whatever I am today. So

this gift is only a small token of my gratitude toward my alma mater."

**The Davidson Management Honors Program**

A gift from Chuck and Nancy Davidson is included in the \$30 million total. Their

*Continued on page 28*

### David E. Daniel — President of The University of Texas at Dallas

During Dr. David E. Daniel's presidency, UT Dallas has doubled its research expenditures, initiated or completed \$300 million of construction of new buildings, added 33 new degree programs, raised \$125 million in private funds and won two national collegiate championships in chess.

Dr. Daniel has advocated widely for UT Dallas to become one of the nation's top research universities, focusing on hiring exceptional faculty members, attracting top students, delivering a quality education, expanding diversity, and partnering with the community in research, education, outreach, the arts, and technology commercialization.

His professional work has been recognized by the American Society of Civil Engineers, which awarded him its highest honor, the Norman Medal, for papers published in its journals. The society has twice awarded him its second-highest honor, the Croes Medal. He also was awarded the Presidents' Award in 2007 and the Outstanding Projects and Leaders

(OPAL) Award for Education for 2010. In 2000, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, the nation's most prestigious organization recognizing engineering achievement.

In July 2010, the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council appointed Dr. Daniel to a committee investigating the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The committee is charged with conducting a technical analysis of the accident's causes and recommending measures to prevent similar disasters in the future.

In 2009, Dr. Daniel served as president of The Academy of Medicine, Engineering, and Science of Texas, an organization comprised of Texas residents who have won Nobel Prizes or been elected to one of the three national academies. From 2005 to 2008, he served as chairman of the External Review Panel of the American Society of Civil Engineers, which reviewed the facts surrounding the performance of New Orleans' levees during Hurricane Katrina.

Dr. Daniel received his bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees in engineering from The University of Texas at Austin. He served on the faculty at UT Austin from 1980 to 1996. In 1996, he moved to the University of Illinois, serving as dean of engineering before being appointed the fourth president of UT Dallas in 2005. ■



### Hasan Pirkul — Dean of the UT Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management

In the last 15 years, Dean Hasan Pirkul has helped transform The Naveen Jindal School of Management into one of the foremost public business schools in the nation — in no small part due to his leadership and guidance. The school's academic programs are now ranked by *BusinessWeek*, *Financial Times* and *U.S. News & World Report*. Among public business schools, two SOM programs (Professional MBA and Executive MBA) are ranked in the top 10 by *BusinessWeek*. Dr. Pirkul helped create the UTD Top 100 Business School Research Rankings™, a benchmark of faculty research output in leading peer-reviewed journals. The School of Management has steadily climbed in those rankings, moving from 40th in 2005 to 16th worldwide in 2011.

In 2003, Dr. Pirkul oversaw construction of the school's 204,000-square-foot new home, a \$38 million facility. Rapid growth in student enrollment, which went from 2,252 in 1996 to 6,316 in fall 2011 — an increase of 280 percent — facilitated the new building.

During Dr. Pirkul's tenure, the school's faculty has more than tripled, going from 45 to 157, with 15 named professorships. The increase in SOM programs since

Dr. Pirkul took charge has mirrored the other increases, going from six degrees in 1996 to 26 degrees and more than a dozen certificates in 2011.

Dr. Pirkul has created an academic environment that fosters scholarly inquiry, innovative teaching, research productivity and the development of forward-thinking programs — such as healthcare management and innovation and entrepreneurship — that will help drive a technology-based global economy.

In addition to his appointment as dean, Dr. Pirkul concurrently holds the Caruth Chair of Management. Prior to joining UT Dallas, he was at the Max M. Fisher College of Business of the Ohio State University, where he was director of Information Systems Programs and founding director of the Center for Information Technologies in Management, as well as professor of accounting and information systems.

He earned a PhD in computer information systems and an MS in management science from the Simon School at the University of Rochester, and a BS in industrial engineering from Boğaziçi University. ■



#### President Daniel Comments:

At The University of Texas at Dallas, we seek excellence. We aim to be recognized as one of our nation's best public research universities, and become one of the great universities of the world.

The necessary ingredient for success in this aspiration is resources. To build a nationally competitive — Tier One — research university, the kind that can bring talented people, bright ideas, venture capital and sustained economic vitality to the Dallas-Fort

Worth region, we need everyone's support.

We are grateful for all the support we receive from every source — our state, our Board of Regents, our students who choose to invest their tuition dollars in a degree here — but we are especially and deeply grateful when our alumni come forward to show their support. They know us best. They know the difference we can, and I hope always will, make in the lives of individuals.

I am delighted that three School of Management alumni so clearly understand our needs and believe we are worthy of

their very generous support. Thank you, Naveen Jindal and Chuck and Nancy Davidson. Thank you for placing your trust in UT Dallas. I have no doubt that your giving will spur more giving, more growth and more graduates — well prepared for life, work and leadership. ■



The school's auditorium, the Davidson, was named to honor the couple's first major alumni gift.

#### Dean Pirkul Comments:

Today I am delighted to thank Naveen Jindal for his generous support — and just as delighted to point out that The School of Management trained him really well. We are very proud of the impact UT Dallas and The School of Management have had on his life. We are also proud of the impact he is now having on ours.

I believe the leadership, foresight, worldview and acumen he demonstrates in contributing to the school's future reflect on the

caliber of education he got while an MBA student here. So besides expressing appreciation, I would like to say congratulations, Naveen, for taking your training to heart.

Mr. Jindal's legacy contribution, through the endowments it funds, significantly transforms The School of Management's ability to train business leaders and expand business frontiers. His gift opens new doors for good students, committed faculty, far-reaching researchers and exceptional programs. It also affirms the visionary leadership of UT Dallas founders and university administra-

tors, who also deserve our thanks today.

I am extremely pleased, too, for the continuing support of Chuck and Nancy Davidson. Their dedication to the school has been unsurpassed. They have been resolute backers with a stalwart allegiance to the school's future. Their giving sets an example that makes us all proud and thankful.

This is such a great school that our alumni feel strong ties long after they leave and want to help. Everyone here is grateful for that help and for the exceptional possibilities it brings our students. ■

# Visionary Giving

Naming donors reflect on the potential they see in their alma mater.

“High-impact giving” describes the recent contributions of Naveen Jindal and Chuck and Nancy Davidson. The term is a university-development catchphrase for the large amount of progress such largesse can quickly achieve.

But immediate results aside, these kinds of contributions represent visionary giving, a belief in the future prospects and a vote of confidence for the healthy longevity of The Naveen Jindal School of Management.

What do Naveen Jindal and Chuck and Nancy Davidson want their resources to accomplish?

“I would like the school to grow from strength to strength, developing leaders not only with a high business acumen but also

with high moral and ethical values,” Mr. Jindal says.

“We hope our gifts will help Dean [Hasan] Pirkul continue to attract and retain great professors and students,” Mr. Davidson says, “as well as carry out important management research.”

“In order for UT Dallas to advance to Tier One status,” Mrs. Davidson says, “we believe it is critical that management research is given serious support.”

On that topic, Mr. Jindal observes that “business schools in general need to pay more attention [to] applied research that can engage and work in collaboration with corporations, business organizations, regulatory bodies and government agencies.”

If that happens, he says, the knowledge and experience of business-school faculty members “could be better utilized for policy formulation and value generation.”

As for the future, Mr. Jindal says he is confident about the school’s continued growth and success. “I am indeed inspired by the members of the university, its faculty, the dean and the president...I sincerely hope that this school [will] be among the top 10 schools in the next 10 years.”

“We look forward,” Mr. Davidson says, “to seeing the SOM continue to grow in both graduate and undergraduate programs, programs that attract the best and the brightest students not only from the Dallas-Fort Worth area — but globally as well.” ■



# 2

two

## SUCCESS STORIES

# Distinguished Alumni Awards

### AWARDS HONOR ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Two School of Management alumni were honored for their accomplishments at the university’s 10th annual spring awards gala. **William Daniel Gibson Jr.**, MS 1990, and **H. Ronald (Ron) Nash**, MS 1979, were selected for the Distinguished Alumni Award along with six outstanding graduates from other UT Dallas schools. The event also featured community leadership and service awards.

“It is a great honor to be named among this year’s recipients,” Mr. Gibson said. “It is incredible to see how far-reaching a school’s influence can be, based on the credentials of the recipients.”

Mr. Gibson, who earned a master’s degree in management and administrative sciences, has held a number of leadership roles at Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp. He currently serves as vice president and general manager of the Systems Engineering Solutions strategic business unit. Mr. Gibson worked at Raytheon and General Dynamics in business development and technical roles before going to Ball, a Broomfield, Colorado-based developer and manufacturer of spacecraft, advanced instruments and sensors, components and solutions

for strategic, tactical and scientific applications.

Fellow honoree Ron Nash earned his accolades for contributions he has made as an entrepreneur and business executive in the technology industry. A partner at InterWest Partners, a Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm, he also sits on boards of various software companies, including Damballa and Pivot3. Named a School of Management Distinguished Alum in 2000, he helped found the university’s alumni association and still sits on the UT Dallas Development Board. A past chairman and ongoing member of the school’s advisory council, he led the group’s fundraising early this decade for a stand-alone SOM building.

“Being selected for this award was a great honor that was only magnified when I attended the event and saw the caliber of my fellow honorees,” Mr. Nash said. He earned an MS in management and finance and now devotes much of his time to community and volunteer activities. “It was a humbling experience, where we were reminded of our responsibility to support UT Dallas in its efforts to continue providing a place for the intellectual development of outstanding students.”

Another honoree with School of Management ties, Dr. Britt Berrett, a School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences 2009 PhD graduate, is an SOM Alliance for Medical Management faculty member and sits on the school’s Healthcare Executive Council.



Alum Ron Nash (right) and his wife, Susan (left), enjoyed the awards gala with SOM Dean Hasan Pirkul.



UT Dallas President David E. Daniel (left) joined Distinguished Alum Britt Berrett in a photo op.



Karen Gibson (left) and Dean Pirkul (center) congratulated her husband, honoree William Daniel Gibson Jr.

# Going Forward... Giving Back

By Paula Felps

From the beginning, the Executive MBA Class of 2011 knew members shared a special bond.

“At one of our very first meetings, we realized that, as a class, we had something in common — all of us were interested in giving back,” class member Pamela Foster Brady says. “We decided right then that we wanted to create a legacy of giving back.”

**“The Class of 2011 demonstrated leadership and mentoring...in several of their collective efforts, a tribute to what they carry forward into their futures.”**

— EMBA Program Director Dan Bochsler

That legacy would shape their direction for the next two years, leading them to raise thousands of dollars to assist injured soldiers, sick children and victims of Haiti’s earthquake and Japan’s tsunami. It brought them together in a unique way, Ms. Foster Brady says, and made them appreciate their ability to help others.

“All of us felt that we were fortunate to be able to go through a program of this caliber, and it felt good to be able to give something back,” she says. “The EMBA program challenged me both personally and professionally, and I hope that what we’ve done will challenge all the classes that follow.”

Executive MBA Program Director Dan Bochsler says class members were brought

together not only by their common desire to help others, but by world events. Much of their generosity went to the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that raises money for families of injured soldiers. The cause was near and dear to the heart of class member Captain Jonathan Silk, a decorated war veteran who was injured in Iraq in 2004. When Captain Silk was deployed to Afghanistan for six months during the EMBA program, some of his classmates worked as a team to keep him up to speed, sending him DVDs of classes (along with homemade brownies) — even sending him reams of paper to print assignments.

“The whole class observed how...the subgroup supported him...to ensure that [he] did not miss a beat...,” Mr. Bochsler says. “The Class of 2011 set a great example of the kind of collaboration that can come from a diverse group of people brought together for a single purpose.”

As the class neared the end of its jour-



Captain Jonathan Silk (left) enjoyed Pamela Foster Brady’s comments when he returned from Afghanistan.

**“This allowed us to leave a mark on the school long after we graduate.”**

— 2011 Class Member Pamela Foster Brady

ney together in May, members came up with the idea of creating an endowment scholarship. With just two weeks until graduation, time was short, but ambitions were high.

“As current and future executives, it is important that we give back to the community, remembering where we all once started from,” class member Piyush Sinha, who spearheaded the efforts, says. “We created this endowment fund to further [the cause of higher education] and put down a goal for future classes to strive for.”

Working with Kyle Edgington, The Naveen Jindal School of Management’s director of development and alumni relations, they developed a strategy and criteria for the scholarship. Together, the class raised the initial \$11,500 needed to start the endowment, and Dean Hasan Pirkul matched the contributions.

Interest from the fund will finance a \$1,000 annual scholarship that, Ms. Foster Brady says, will live on indefinitely.

Mr. Bochsler says the value the Class of 2011 brought to the program goes far beyond the money it raised. “This class set a highly visible example of the good that can be achieved with a united group effort,” he says. “I believe it will inspire other classes to consider related efforts as [they] consider their legacy.”

The Naveen Jindal School of Management

The Executive MBA Class of 2011’s collaborative efforts showcased their commitment and kindheartedness.



Some EMBA Class of 2011 members commemorated their joint endeavors in a group photo last spring.

## LASTING LEGACY

As the Executive MBA Class of 2011 neared graduation, members decided they wanted to make a lasting statement — literally.

Traditionally, graduating EMBA classes leave a legacy. The Class of 2011 had created a scholarship fund, but members also wanted to put into words what they felt they had become through unifying experiences.

The group worked together to write a legacy statement, which they felt captured the true spirit of where they had come, both as a class and as individuals, and what their expectations were for themselves as they moved forward.

Later, each class member participated in filming a video — made as a personalized memento — that spliced together class members reciting the Legacy Statement. It ended with each class member repeating the final words of the oath: “In everything I do.”

That final statement was important, class member Pamela Foster Brady says, because “this really was something we did together, as a group. It was an amazing experience. The EMBA program challenged us personally and professionally, and we hope our legacy will challenge others.”

## THE LEGACY STATEMENT:

*I am a UT Dallas EMBA alumnus; I am a business leader. I will move forward and will lead by example, embrace diversity, raise the bar ethically and morally, foster corporate social responsibility, and I will commit to my continual improvement — academically, professionally, and personally.*

*I will strive to achieve excellence in all endeavors to demonstrate that I received an education that was well-rounded, global in nature, and based on the foundation of collaboration, leadership, and teamwork. With this foundation I will always honor and respect the UT Dallas Executive MBA program and all that it stands for.*

*As an alumnus, I am committed to and will remain committed to the continual improvement of the program, my fellow classmates, and the extended family of alumni. I will act with sincerity, honesty, integrity, and respect for others, with a philanthropic spirit in everything I do.*

## WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT:

\$650 – donation collected by “passing a mug” at their favorite watering hole  
\$2,000 – money raised by selling back textbooks at the end of one semester

## HAITI EARTHQUAKE:

\$450 – class member Shari Hicks solicited contributions, then donated them to the American Red Cross

## SICKKIDS HOSPITAL:

\$1,200 – during the class’ first international trip, member Mary Beth Martin arranged a visit to the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids Hospital) in Toronto and presented the hospital administrator with the funds, which class members had donated

## JAPAN’S TSUNAMI:

\$900 – the 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami inspired the class to raise money for its victims; the funds were then matched by Fujitsu, the employer of class member Julia Pitlik

UT Dallas | Autumn 2011



# NEW MEMBERS FOCUSED ON JOBS AND RECRUITING

— BY DONNA STEPH RIAN —

Two new members recently joined The Naveen Jindal School of Management Advisory Council, a group of corporate executives, experts and leaders from the Dallas-Fort Worth business community who play a vital role in the school's expansion, development and achievement.



Thomas A. Montgomery

**Thomas A. Montgomery** is managing partner of Montgomery Coscia Greulich LLP, a full-service accounting firm specializing in traditional accounting services, mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and systems consulting. One of the largest accounting firms in the DFW area, the company employs more than 140 professionals.

Mr. Montgomery has worked in the Dallas area for more than 30 years and believes his long list of professional contacts will add to the council's effectiveness in helping graduating students find jobs and increasing the UT Dallas profile in the marketplace. Mr. Montgomery's firm recruits regularly at UT Dallas. He hopes to encourage more companies to do the same.

"My company is very networked into the community," he says. "I hope to be a liaison between the university and businesses, particularly in helping place graduates and interns into work environments that benefit both them and their employers."

A graduate of Texas Tech University with a master's degree in accounting and taxation, Mr. Montgomery is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Prior to his current position, he founded Beal Capital Markets, Inc., an investment subsidiary of Beal Bank. Before that, he founded and was managing partner of Montgomery Baggett & Drews, LLP, a Dallas-based CPA firm.

**Richard B. Ouellette**, vice president of human resources for the Southwestern division of the Sherwin-Williams Company, replaces his firm's previous council representative, Cheri Phyfer, who was transferred to Atlanta. Mr. Ouellette is responsible for numerous human resources functions, including hiring, training, performance management, employee relations, and retention and development. The company's Southwestern division comprises more than 800 stores in 14 states with approximately 5,000 employees.

Campus recruiting is of vital importance to Sherwin-Williams, as more than 75 percent of its entry-level positions are filled through college recruitment programs around the country. Mr. Ouellette expects about 800 to 900 manager trainees will be hired this year on university campuses, with 210 to 220 of those in his division.

"I have experience," he says, "in what companies are looking for in graduating students....What I hope to do at UT Dallas is assist in that recruiting process, with our company and others."

A West Palm Beach, Florida, native, Mr. Ouellette spent four years in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service before attending college. He graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in human resources. He earned an MBA in international business from Regis University in Denver. He joined Sherwin-Williams in 1997 as a human resources manager and assumed his current post last year. ■



Richard B. Ouellette

# STRENGTHENING THE CORPS

MUCH OF THE NEW FACULTY'S RESEARCH IS ROOTED IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO CONTEMPORARY BUSINESS ISSUES.

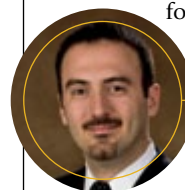
by Jeanne Spreier

## ALP MUHARREMOGLU

Coming to The Naveen Jindal School of Management from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business, Alp Muharremoglu brings a wealth of experience as a teacher, adviser and researcher.

Dr. Muharremoglu earned his PhD in operations research from MIT's Sloan School of Management in 2002. At Columbia, he taught a variety of graduate and doctoral classes related to his interests in supply chain management, inventory management, pricing and revenue management, and decision making under uncertainty. He also was either co-adviser or committee member for eight doctoral students.

"My research is on decision making under uncertainty, with a particular focus on inventory management," he says. Dr.



MUHARREMOGLU

Muharremoglu joins the Organizations, Strategy and International Management area as an associate professor. "My recent work aims to assess the impact of supply uncertainty on a firm's operations, and provides strategies for effective inventory management in the face of such uncertainty."

## JIANQING CHEN

As the newest member of the information systems faculty, Assistant



CHEN

Professor Jianqing Chen initially will focus on his research into online advertising and pricing, auctions and other online operations topics. "The aim of my

current research is to understand, explain and suggest improvements in the broad economic issues of emerging digital phenomena, such as search-engine business — sponsored search or keyword advertising."

The School of Management's Information Systems program was ranked No. 18 this year among universities nationwide by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Dr. Chen earned his PhD in information systems from UT Austin before moving to the University of Calgary as an assistant professor. There, he received the Dean's Award for Outstanding New Scholar in 2009 and was awarded federal funding from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for his research into online advertising and Internet purchasing. He serves as the associate editor for the professional journal *Decision Support Systems*.

## ELISABETH HONKA

Elisabeth Honka's first car purchase, and subsequent search for insurance, spurred her research interests. She discovered, as she collected insurance

prices, that there could be hundreds of dollars' difference for the same coverage. "Yet, most consumers are very loyal to their insurance company, do not search for better offers at all, or search very few companies," she says. The result: "They do not realize these potential savings. I wanted to study why that was the case."

Dr. Honka comes to UT Dallas from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, where she earned her PhD in marketing. While at Booth, she was named a Kilts Center Fellow for 2009-2011. She also recently



HONKA

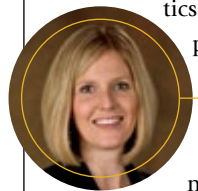
received a grant from the Wharton Customer Analytics Initiative to study the effects of the mobile Internet on media consumption.

As an assistant professor in marketing, she is teaching an undergrad class and pursuing her research.

## JENNA PIEPER

Strategic human resource management and workplace diversity are topics that Jenna Pieper is researching as assistant professor in the Organizations, Strategy and International Management area. She says human resource management research focuses on employee performance, turnover and attitudes, while her

research on diversity focuses on how demographics, such as age and gender, mix with psychological traits, such as personality and attitudes, to impact the workplace.



PIEPER

"Diversity among these characteristics is a reality in the workplace, and ultimately influences the effectiveness of human resource and management practices," Dr. Pieper says.

While at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Pieper was awarded the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship as she worked on her PhD in management and human resources. She taught graduate and undergraduate classes focusing on teams, strategic and entrepreneurial management and organizational behavior.

**MALCOLM WARDLAW**

A history class about a decade ago served as the catalyst for Malcolm Wardlaw's research in corporate finance and financial institutions. "I first became interested in how financing interacts with and affects real decisions after reading *Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution*," Dr. Wardlaw recalls. "The book was a fascinating look at how the economics of colonial tobacco cultivation generated a rift between American colonists and British financiers that ultimately helped foment the American Revolution."

Dr. Wardlaw joins the finance faculty as an



WARDLAW

assistant professor. While working on his

PhD at UT Austin, he taught undergraduate finance classes. Between graduating from Rice University and returning to school in Austin, he worked at a number of corporations, including as a consultant at McKinsey and director of sales and marketing at R7 Solutions, both in Houston.

**HAN XIA**

The economic turmoil of the past few years has shaped Han Xia's research. "My research was mostly inspired by the recent subprime financial crisis," he says. "The goal of my research is to study the public policy implication of recent finance innovation and regulation on the overall financial market."



XIA

Dr. Xia, who earned his PhD in finance from the University of North Carolina, joins the finance faculty as an assistant professor. He is teaching corporate finance and financial management classes.

He nourishes his artistic passions with music. "I have been playing the piano for 20 years. I play classical mostly, but also perform jazz, blues, pop and other kinds of music," he says. "I also write music myself occasionally as a way to inspire the innovative side of my mind."

**CHRISTOPHER ANGELO**

Two of the three classes Christopher Angelo is teaching this fall to graduate students involve the stock market and trading. "I am very excited about teaching trading courses," says Dr. Angelo, a clinical professor in finance. His background includes trading in stocks, options, futures, commodities

and currencies.

Dr. Angelo earned an undergraduate degree in finance at Southern Methodist University and a doctorate in finance from UT Arlington. His research focuses on equities. For two years, he worked in the Dallas office of Cogent Partners, an international investment banking



ANGELO

services firm, where he researched hedge funds, including performance, risk and selection.

**MARK MCNABB**

Since receiving his PhD in finance from UT Austin in 1996, Dr. Mark McNabb has spent more than a decade teaching college students about investments, corporate finance and derivatives, most recently at the University of Cincinnati. He also has extensive experience in the corporate world in financial planning and tax advising. He most recently has been at MCF Advisors, a wealth-management services company in Northern Kentucky. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst.



MCNABB

Joining the Finance area as a clinical professor, Dr. McNabb is teaching classes related to investments and portfolio management. He says he enjoys watching his former students launch successful careers. He also enjoys "great food in odd spots across the South."

**AYFER GURUN**

Investigating how foreign trade impacts employment — or unemploy-

ment — puts Ayfer Gurun's research in the crosshairs of current political and economic conversation.

"Because of lower trade



GURUN

barriers, foreign trade has increased a lot in the last decade," says Dr. Gurun, who is joining the Jindal School of Management as a clinical assistant professor in finance. "Growing international trade affects our lives in several ways...After reading several media reports on adverse effects of import penetration — such as plant closings and mass layoffs — I was intrigued by measuring the effects of import penetration on corporations." Other related topics she studies are anti-dumping rules and how imports impact unionization rates in the U.S.

Dr. Gurun earned her PhD in economics from Southern Methodist University and previously had worked for several years at the Central Bank of Turkey. She is teaching international financial management and business economics classes.

**C. JUSTICE TILLMAN**

C. Justice Tillman is teaching organizational behavior and management classes this fall to undergrads, utilizing his certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources in addition to his MBA, master's in human resource management and two doctoral degrees — one in career and technology



TILLMAN

education and one in management.

Dr. Tillman most recently was a teaching assistant at the Univer-

sity of Alabama, where he completed his PhD in management. Prior to that, he taught several years at Lander University, a state school in South Carolina, where he consistently received high teaching marks from students. While there, he helped with student advising, chaired the Student Services Committee and helped organize freshman orientation.

As a clinical assistant professor, Dr. Tillman pursues his research interest in ethics and integrity. His research in progress includes a study focusing on the role of social networks in ethical choices.

**JARED PICKENS**

In his first role as a senior lecturer, Jared Pickens became friends with more than 100 high schoolers from across Texas. Not personal friends — but friends on Facebook, the medium he used to connect with them as they participated last summer in the school's inaugural online virtual stock trading competition.



PICKENS

Mr. Pickens, a Certified Financial Planner, Certified Retirement Counselor and Accredited Financial Counselor, is the assistant director of the BS in Finance program and an adviser to the Financial Leadership Association student club. He has taught financial planning to adults for years, notably to armed forces preparing for overseas deployment.

"The best advice that I was ever given was from my grandfather," Mr. Pickens recalls. "'Jared, make sure you save your money.' I changed from a history major to a personal finance major the next semester."

**EMILY CHOI**


Before embarking on her academic career, Emily Choi worked several years in the high-tech industry, including at Apple, Inc., where she was a senior manager for new-product operations, and at E2open, where she was a member of the founders' team and the solutions architect and director of supply chain solutions.

After receiving her doctorate in management of organizations from the University of California-Berkeley, Dr. Choi now serves as visiting assistant professor in the Organizations, Strategy and International Management area. She will be teaching in the spring and studying new technology companies and their partnerships. "I'm mainly interested to learn why new firms form varying patterns of partnerships and how such patterns affect outcomes that [contribute] to their survival."

Dr. Choi says that in the corporate world, inter-firm partnerships are common. "I noticed that we tended to partly rational-



CHOI

ize our choice of partners by weighing in social perceptions, such as status and identity...I grew curious to explore this tendency and to understand whether weighing in such perceptions really mattered." 

# THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW...



Varghese Jacob

Technology behind the study of management information systems (MIS) has changed so rapidly that “there may be a perception that there is no depth to research” in this field, Naveen Jindal School of Management Senior Associate Dean **Varghese Jacob** says. He argued against that perception in the keynote speech he delivered at the Fifth China Summer Workshop on Information Management (CSWIM 2011) in Harbin, China, in June. His address, “MIS Research Over the Years — Rolling Stone or Leading Edge?” sought to answer whether his fellow MIS academicians can come up with a context or framework in which to consider MIS research. “I believe MIS research can be viewed as leading edge as opposed to the flavor of the month,” Dr. Jacob, the Ashbel Smith Professor of Information Systems and Operations Management, told his audience.

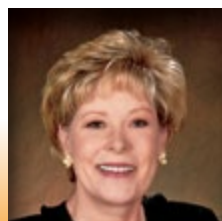


Eric Zheng



Xianjun Geng

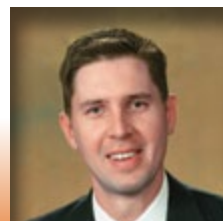
JSOM PhD candidate **Jiahui Mo** (not pictured), Associate Professor of Information Systems and Operations Management (ISOM) **Eric Zheng** and Assistant ISOM Professor **Xianjun Geng** shared the best paper award from CSWIM. Their work, “Winning Crowdsourcing Contexts: A Micro-Structural Analysis of Multi-Relational Networks,” studies how rivalry and friendship impact competitors hoping to secure business tasks outsourced to an undefined group — or crowd — through an open call.



Diane S. McNulty

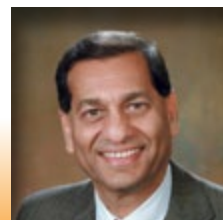
A panel of judges for the *Dallas Business Journal* named

**Diane S. McNulty**, JSOM associate dean for external affairs and corporate relations, one of the publication’s 2011 Women in Business Honorees. Dr. McNulty was one of 25 women chosen from a field of more than 150 nominees. Representing leaders in their industry, companies and communities, “these are the women who we feel are truly making a difference in their world,” *DBJ* announced. The honorees were fêted at an August 18 luncheon.



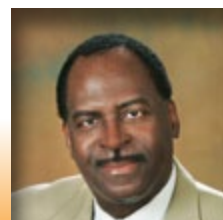
Matt Polze

In recognition of his excellence in the classroom, **Matt Polze**, JSOM associate dean for undergraduate programs and a senior lecturer in accounting, was one of six UT Dallas faculty members and 72 educators throughout The University of Texas System named 2011 Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award winners. The honor, given to faculty members who demonstrate extraordinary classroom performance and innovation at the undergraduate level, brings Mr. Polze a \$15,000 cash award.



Suresh P. Sethi

**Suresh P. Sethi** delivered lectures on supply chain management and on optimal control and its applications to economics and math faculty and students at the National University of Mongolia in its capital city, Ulan Bator, in June. The Charles and Nancy Davidson Chair of Information Systems and Operations Management, Dr. Sethi participated through the Fulbright Specialists Program, created in 2000 to provide two- to six-week academic opportunities to prominent U.S. faculty and professionals. “Supply chain management is becoming popular in Mongolia, and is part of the curriculum” at the national university, Dr. Sethi says, “but there are no qualified specialists [there] who can teach at the graduate level.”

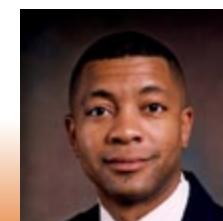


David L. Ford Jr.

A research paper co-authored by **David L. Ford Jr.**, a professor in the school’s Organizations,

Strategy and International Management (OSIM) area, earned a Highly Commended designation in the Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence in 2011. The editorial team at *Cross Cultural Management: An International Journal* nominated “Organizational Stress, Psychological Strain, and Work Outcomes in Six National Contexts,” (Volume 17, No. 1, pages 10 to 29) for the honor. Dr. Ford’s study compared cultural variations of workplace coping and decision-making styles in six countries.

In March, Dr. Ford initiated exchanges with the school’s new collaborative partner, Jindal Global Business School, by giving a Distinguished Scholar Lecture at the school near Delhi, India. JSOM and the Jindal Global Business School signed an agreement in December of last year. Dr. Ford spoke on “Green Management, Environmental Social Responsibility and Effective Leadership Values: A Symlog Perspective.”



Orlando C. Richard

Dr. Ford returned to India in June with fellow faculty member **Orlando C. Richard** to attend the Eastern Academy of Management’s international

conference on “Managing in a Global Economy XIV.”

In August, the Academy of Management’s Gender and Diversity in Organizations Division presented Dr. Richard, an associate OSIM professor, with the 2011 Dorothy Harlow Best Paper Award for “The Complementary Effect of Managerial and Board Diversity on Firm Performance.” Named in honor of the late Dr. Dorothy Harlow, who was instrumental in the founding of the Gender and Diversity in Organizations Division, the award goes to the best paper submitted to the academy’s annual conference.



Charles Hazzard

Described as “one of the most dedicated teachers in The School of Management” by a fellow faculty member, Clinical Professor **Charles Hazzard** received the campuswide President’s Outstanding Teaching Award for non-tenure-track faculty in May. He was selected from among 400 eligible educators.

Mr. Hazzard teaches Contemporary Business Issues, a class he helped create, as well as undergraduate honors courses in international business and

organizational behavior.

Among students’ nominating remarks were: “He really teaches from his vast experience, and I feel this is invaluable”; “There is always very stimulating conversation in his classes, and he does an excellent job of providing a great learning environment”; and “He shares his knowledge with a passion and really gets the students to think and engage in discussion.”



Constantine Konstans

In May, *D CEO* magazine named **Constantine (Connie) Konstans**, accounting professor, winner of its first Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance.



Ashutosh Prasad

The *Journal of Retailing* named Associate Marketing Professor **Ashutosh Prasad** a winner of one of its 2011 Best Reviewers Awards. An academic publication devoted to advancing knowledge

with respect to all aspects of retailing, the journal selected winners on the basis of the quality of their reviews, the number of reviews they completed and the speed at which they completed reviews.



Özalp Özer

**Özalp Özer**, an associate professor in the Information Systems and Operations Management area, lectured in China last spring. In May, he spoke at Tsinghua University in Beijing about his work on one product supply-and-demand forecasting model. His presentation at “Mostly OM,” an international workshop for academics focused on state-of-the-art research in operations management.

At a June meeting in Hong Kong, Dr. Özer discussed the challenges and opportunities that globalization has brought to supply chain management. He spoke at an industry forum and academic roundtable that brought together business practitioners and educators at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. **J**

NEW ASSIGNMENTS



Larry Chasteen

Fall semester brings these new assignments for Jindal School of Management administrators and faculty:

**Shawn Alborz** has been appointed assistant dean of special projects. In this role, he reports directly to Dean Hasan Pirkul, who assigns him high-value projects. The first has involved improving the school's Web presence and streamlining Web projects. Dr. Alborz continues to serve as director of supply chain management programs.

**Dan Bochsler**, has been appointed director of the Executive MBA program. He previously was in charge of cross-disciplinary

studies for the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a UT Dallas Center of Excellence housed in The Naveen Jindal School of Management, and he developed graduate online classes in entrepreneurial marketing and strategy.

**Larry Chasteen** is the new director of the Online MBA program, replacing **George Barnes**, who retired at the end of the spring 2011 semester. Formerly known as the Global MBA Online program, the Online MBA program is one of two Professional (Part-Time) MBA degree options.

Dr. Chasteen started his pro-

fessional career as a B-52 pilot in the U.S. Air Force and later worked with Texas Instruments and Raytheon. Dr. Chasteen assumed his new duties last summer. He earned an MA from The School of Management in 1984 and a PhD in international management 2003.

**Jennifer Johnson** has been named director of graduate accounting programs, replacing **Charles Solcher**, who has returned to teaching. Ms. Johnson joined the faculty in 2009. A certified public accountant, she earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting from Texas A&M University. ■



Jennifer Johnson

NEW MARKETING CERTIFICATES ADDRESS EMPLOYER NEEDS

The Naveen Jindal School of Management has created two new graduate certificate programs meant to alleviate a local workforce shortage of professionals skilled in consumer-data analysis and in the business side of product management.

"An explosion in recent years in the amount of consumer data — coming from store scanners, online transactions and social media exchanges — has created a growing need for marketing professionals who can analyze this information," Alexander Edsel, director of JSOM's graduate marketing program, says. "Good, thorough analysis helps manufacturers, distributors, promoters, retailers and others put the data to use in making better marketing decisions."

Offered under the auspices of the MS in Marketing degree program, the Graduate Certificate in Marketing Analytics and Research "addresses the shortage of qualified candidates with the right combination of marketing and analytical skills by offering courses that provide an introduction to basic marketing principles along with quantitative courses in marketing analytics," Mr. Edsel says.

In product management, Mr. Edsel says, professionals usually are recruited from among technologically adept specialists. "However, improving their business and marketing expertise is vital in their product-management role."

The Product Management Graduate Certificate, "is intended to fill this knowledge void," Mr. Edsel says, "with a set of highly specialized courses critical for product management success."

Each program has a total of four courses that take a minimum of two semesters to complete. After finishing the required courses, all students must pass a final comprehensive proficiency exam to earn a certificate. Both programs are open to degree- and non-degree-seeking students.

For more information, visit <http://som.utdallas.edu/marketingPC/> or contact Alex Edsel, 972-883-4421, [alexander.edsel@utdallas.edu](mailto:alexander.edsel@utdallas.edu).



Rajiv Shah



Stephen Yurkovich

Systems Engineering and Management Debuts New Degree Option

Systems Engineering and Management (SEM), a master's level program that prepares graduates to develop and manage complex projects requiring both scientific and business competencies, now offers several options for earning a degree. The options have been designed to benefit both seasoned workers and recent grads.

Debating this fall, the newest choice — regular courses offered on weekdays in a traditional format — is geared to students who recently have earned a bachelor's degree and have less than three years' work experience. The weekend program — geared to students with three or more years' work experience or now in the workforce — offers short-term certificate and long-term degree options.

Typical SEM students have a BS in engineering, computer science, math, physics, chemistry, economics or finance.

A joint program of The Naveen Jindal School of Management and the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, SEM began in spring 2010 and recently welcomed Dr. Stephen Yurkovich, as co-head for the Jonsson School. Previously a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Ohio State University, where he was also director of the Honda-OSU Partnership Program and a member of the Center for Automotive Research, Dr. Yurkovich holds the Louis Beecherl Jr. Distinguished Chair in Engineering at UT Dallas.

Dr. Rajiv Shah is the JSOM head of SEM. A clinical professor of entrepreneurship, he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, entrepreneurial strategy, and product and technology management.

For more information, visit <http://som.utdallas.edu/sem/>.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Supply Chain Program Ranked No. 13

The Supply Chain Management master's degree program at The Naveen Jindal School of Management ranks No. 13 among its U.S. university peers, according to a study by Gartner, a technology research firm.

In February, JSOM partnered with Gartner and Carnegie Mellon University in hosting a Supply Chain Management Directors' Conference at UT Dallas. Educators from 35 U.S. universities met at the three-day event. JSOM host Dr. Shawn Alborz, an assistant dean and the school's supply chain management program director, learned of the ranking at the culmination of the meetings, where more than 60 academicians and business leaders conferred on better aligning supply chain programs with industry needs.

Gartner officially released the rankings showing the top 25 undergraduate and the top 25 graduate programs in June. Results were based on survey answers from more than 400 industry and 54 university respondents. They scored schools on three key components: industry value, program size and program scope.

"This is another measure of our relevance," Dr. Alborz said,

referring to the program's recognition last year by the Institute for Supply Chain Management, a nonprofit education and standards organization serving professionals in 75 countries. "Both the institute recognition and the Gartner ranking highlight that we are graduating students well-equipped to manage supply chain processes. Those are strong endorsements."

SOM supply chain management students learn to design, run and improve industrial supply chains, including how to improve operations and how to resolve key issues. For more information, visit <http://scm.utdallas.edu>.



Left: Steve Clampett, president of Sabre Airlines Solutions, delivered the conference keynote address.

Below: Supply Chain Management Program Director Shawn Alborz (far right) observed a conference discussion.



## New Real Estate Concentrations Respond to Industry Needs

Long a “real estate town” where many fortunes have resulted from development growth and fortuitous land transactions, Dallas will now benefit, Jindal School of Management faculty member George DeCourcy says, from the fresh approach that the school is offering in its real estate program, debuting this fall.

“Our primary focus is on the commercial real estate industry,” Mr. DeCourcy, an industry veteran and director of the new program, says. “Our program will be responsive to evolving market needs,” he says, “filling a void that has not been addressed by other university programs locally.”

Given the sophistication of the Dallas commercial real estate business, Mr. DeCourcy points out, “the companies active in this field — the brokerage, investment, development, property management, asset management, tenant representative and other firms — have substantially raised the bar on the skills required to be successful in real estate.”

That is why, he says, the JSOM program is taking advantage of UT Dallas existing strengths in technologies to include training in such advanced tools of the trade as spreadsheet modeling and Geographic Information Systems, programs used to capture, map and analyze land-based information.

Overall, courses “are intended to balance a broad understanding of real estate markets, finance and risk with hands-on exposure to practical tools,” Mr. DeCourcy says.

He has introduced three separate concentrations.

At the undergraduate level, the concentration is an elective subset available to Bachelor of Science in Business Administration students. It will allow them, Mr. DeCourcy says, “to differentiate themselves in the marketplace and show that they can provide an immediate ‘value-add’ to employers in this sector.”

The concentration for MBA students, Mr. DeCourcy says, “is likely to attract individuals who may already be working in the real estate industry and who are looking to expand their future career opportunities.”

A second graduate program concentration allows students to earn at least 15 credit hours in real estate. “This program,” Mr. DeCourcy says, “is perceived to be attractive to individuals considering a real estate career or looking for an immediate boost to their current position.”

Both graduate concentrations focus significantly on real estate investment, finance and market analysis.

For more information, visit <http://som.utdallas.edu/realestate> or contact George DeCourcy, 972-883-5810, [george@utdallas.edu](mailto:george@utdallas.edu).



George DeCourcy

## Healthcare Management Courses Now Available to Undergrads



Forney Fleming

The steady demand for professionals with specialized skills in the business of healthcare has prompted expansion in the Jindal School of Management’s Healthcare Management program.

In addition to a graduate level Master’s in Healthcare Management degree, the JSOM now offers a nine-hour concentration of undergraduate courses.

The concentration, debuting this fall, is enrolling Jindal School of Management students seeking a Bachelor of Business Administration degree as well as other UT Dallas undergraduates planning to move on to dental, medical or pharmacy schools.

For this second group, says Healthcare Management Program Director Forney Fleming, MD, “the idea is to give them an introduction to the business side of healthcare that they will not get in medical or dental school.”

He also would like to encourage more pre-meds, Dr. Fleming says, “to earn a dual major, in business and their science field.”

Another goal, he adds, is to stimulate an interest in healthcare administration “that will offer those students who do not succeed in getting admitted to medical or dental or pharmacy school a viable — and in-demand — career alternative.”

Among JSOM students, Dr. Fleming wants to get more undergrads “acquainted with healthcare management as a career possibility so they that they can be tuned in to — and take maximum advantage of — the master’s degree program in healthcare management. Healthcare is the second- or third-largest employer in the Dallas area, and the future demand for healthcare administrators will be great.”

For more information, contact a JSOM adviser or Dr. Fleming, 972-883-5812, [f.fleming@utdallas.edu](mailto:f.fleming@utdallas.edu).

*The Naveen Jindal School of Management*

## CLOUD COMPUTING FORECAST IS SUNNY

— By Jill Glass —



Hans-Joachim Adler

As cloud computing changes the way companies operate, the Jindal School of Management is grooming tomorrow’s business leaders to gain an edge with this emerging technology.

The school’s Management Information Systems area is partnering with the software company SAP in a pilot program to provide students practical cloud-computing

experience. The project incorporates SAP Business ByDesign, new cloud software for Enterprise Resource Planning, into the curricula of six universities taking part in the SAP University Alliances program.

Cloud computing turns information technology-related capabilities into on-demand Internet-based services, says JSOM Information Systems Assistant Professor Hans-Joachim Adler. Instead of setting up complex and expensive hardware and software infrastructures, companies plug into the “cloud” — a bank of Internet-based applications that

can perform administrative, managing, analytical and forecasting tasks.

Cloud computing is more flexible and less complex than traditional computing; it also is less expensive, Dr. Adler says.

With new cloud software, small to mid-size companies “can pay reasonable prices...to get access,” he says. “But getting access and being able to afford the software doesn’t make them knowledgeable about its functionality.”

So there is “a growing need for teaching students how to use it,” Dr. Adler says. Consultants with cloud-computing skills are in high demand, he says.

SAP Business ByDesign will help, Dr. Adler says, by bringing a cloud-computing environment to the school. With the pilot agreement, SAP has given him access to the software to create a curriculum to teach students business-process modeling using on-demand solutions developed for small and mid-size companies. Before the school may offer Business ByDesign courses, Dr. Adler must defend his curriculum before SAP at the end of the year.

## GLE MBA Study Tour Serves Up British, Turkish Flavors

By Jimmie R. Markham

Global Leadership Executive MBA (GLE MBA) students recently undertook the program’s 13th annual international study tour with a memorable trip to London and Istanbul.

GLE MBA Program Director Bobby C. Chang, who accompanied the cohort class on the trip, said the travelers “learned a lot about Turkey’s economics, politics, history and culture.” And the trip to London, he added, made “a perfect comparison to provide the students viewpoints from the European Union about euros and the current financial crisis” there.

GLE MBA student Kevin Posey described himself as “lucky to have the experience.” He thoroughly enjoyed, he said, the mix of learning, culture, bonding and great fun.

“When I tell the stories to friends and family, my face still lights up,” he said. “We bonded as a group and had a chance to experience cultures that were historic and interesting. The trip was very well organized.”

As for the business cultures, GLE MBA student Loretta Fellers noted that Turkish

companies are “very product focused while the UK market is more services focused.”

In Istanbul, the group visited five companies. Besides the local office of Nestle and GE, they stopped in at Pozitron, a local startup that provides iPhone application software; Efes, a Turkish-based beer and soft drink company; and Koc Holding, a family controlled public company that accounts for 10 percent of Turkey’s annual GDP.

In London, the students went to the

offices of Canon, Dell and Merrill Lynch. They also had appointments at the investment management firm, BlackRock, and at the tax planning and asset protection company, the Sovereign Group.

In London, they also saw such famous sights as Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and the London Eye. In Turkey, excursions included a visit to Troy, a cruise on the Bosphorus Strait and stops at the Blue Mosque, Aya Sofia and Topkapi Palace.

Left: The GLE MBA travelers posed for a group photo in Istanbul at a replica of the Trojan horse. Right: An Ottoman era temple provided another scenic backdrop for picture taking.



# Financial Indexes Coming Into Focus

Preliminary observations of statistics from a Jindal School of Management study that measures the financial health and flexibility of the 50 largest publicly held corporations in North Texas are beginning to reveal some favorable, and some not-so-favorable, economic patterns.

When Dr. David Springate, director of the Center for Finance Strategy Innovation, introduced the CFSI Indexes earlier this year, he had hoped they would act as a sort of barometer for the North Texas business community by tracking patterns that could forecast economic turbulence. Now, a picture is emerging from the nine quarters of data the center has gathered.

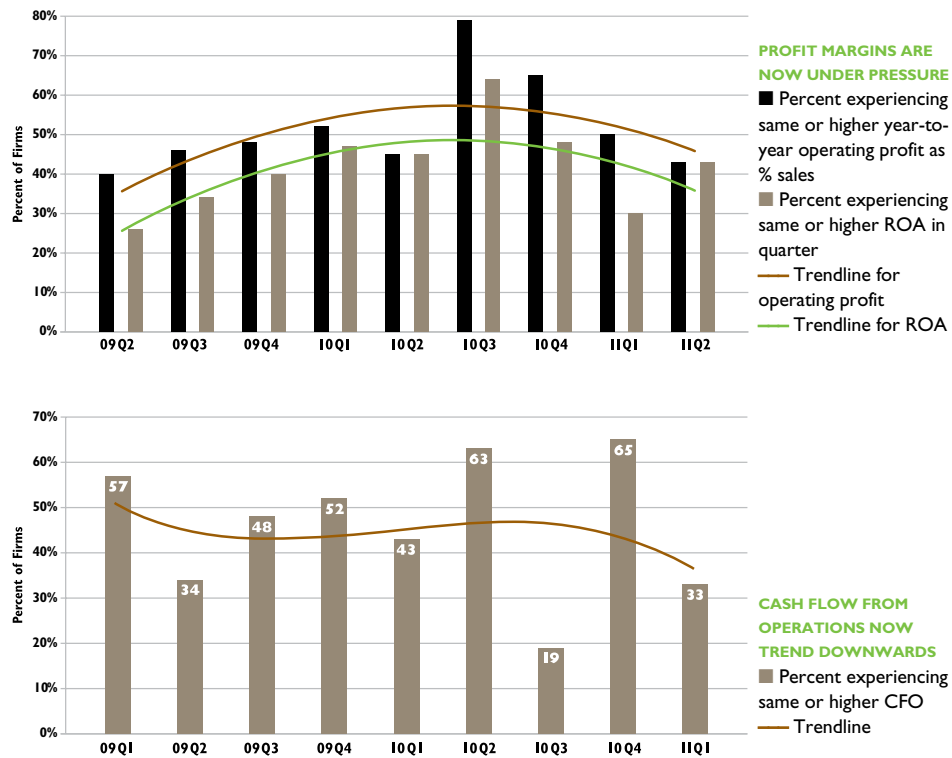
"Trends for these companies — 60 percent of which operate internationally and all of which are subject to international influences — have mirrored the trends of the national and international economies," Dr. Springate says. "Sales continue to increase and, broadly speaking, more firms are becoming profitable, although 20 percent are still not. Firms are learning to operate with less investment in inventory."

That is the good news. The indexes also offer some bad news.

"Profit margins, which we measured in two ways, have peaked," Dr. Springate says.

"Return on assets and return on sales peaked during the first and second quarter of 2010. Now profit margins are under some pressure. Cash flow from operations is also trending downwards. The combination of all these trends results in the flattening of the composite measure. This is why we're seeing the same things that we hear in the news: hiring is down and there's less expansion in terms of infrastructure."

These companies are now paying their shareholders more dividends than in previous periods. "Their reduction in long-term borrowing, and for a while everybody was paying off their long-term debt, seems to have reversed," Dr. Springate says. "These companies are now going for more long-term financing, whether in debt or shareholder capital."



J. Chris White

## ICDRiA Hires New Director, Welcomes Researchers

J. Chris White has joined The Naveen Jindal School of Management's International Center for Decision and Risk Analysis (ICDRiA) as director of development. In that role, he establishes industry contacts in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Mr. White also teaches courses in risk management, modeling and simulation, and the defense industry in the new Systems Engineering and Management program (see *Systems Engineering and Management Debuts New Degree Option* on page 19).

ICDRiA recently signed a contract to run through 2014 with Électricité de France to study uncertainties related to alternative

energies, specifically wind-power production. The center also renewed a contract with CEA, a French-government funded technological research association, to research risks related to the behavior of mechanical structures subject to vibrations.

Four researchers, three from China and one from Germany, are on campus through the spring and fall of next year to work with ICDRiA Director and SOM Distinguished Research Professor Alain Bensoussan. The Chinese professors are sponsored by the Chinese Scholarship Council. The German researcher is a PhD candidate from the Otto Beisheim School of Management.

Check the center website, <http://som.utdallas.edu/centers/icdria/>, for more information.

## Institute Fêtes Its Fifth Anniversary

Some successful student entrepreneurs showed off business prowess they polished at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE) at UT Dallas as the institute celebrated its fifth anniversary September 16.

UT Dallas PhD candidate in neuroscience Will Rosellini, an MS 2003 and MBA 2003 alum of The Naveen Jindal School of Management, talked about MicroTransponder, the local medical-device development company of which he is CEO. A collaborative initiative of all seven UT Dallas schools, IIE played a key role in MicroTransponder's startup.

A past undergraduate winner of IIE's annual Business Idea Competition, George Mavromaras, a 2009 honors biology graduate, used some of his cash award to launch Mavro, Inc, with his brother,

also a UT Dallas grad. Mavro markets Spanish-language mobile applications that provide English speakers quick translation solutions.

William Boren, an alumnus of the institute's nine-month non-credit Entrepreneurial Development Series of courses, opened Online Video Solutions in June 2010. The startup provides video marketing education and consulting services.

The celebration program included a keynote speech by UT Dallas President David E. Daniel, an introduction to the university's recently launched Venture Development Center and highlights from IIE's annual Innovation Opportunity Camp for high school students.

For more information, visit <http://som.utdallas.edu/centers/innovation/>.



Top: Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban (left) met and spoke about fellow entrepreneur George Mavromaras in a 2010 visit to the school.

Bottom: Dr. Joseph C. Picken, who founded the institute, serves as its executive director.

## SPEAKER STRESSES HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

By Jimmie R. Markham



Joseph A. Cazares

The fifth annual project management symposium The Naveen Jindal School of Management presented in August included speakers from some of the most dynamic organizations in North Texas as well as a JSOM graduate student who manages one of the largest construction projects in the world.

In all, Project Management — Driving Success in a Complex World featured 71 speakers and panelists who scrutinized successes, failures, evolution, innovations, influences,

leadership and needs in their field for the more-than 300 symposium-goers.

Keynote speakers included:

- Andy Rittler and John Hagan from the LBJ Express Project, who spoke about the five-year transformation of Dallas' LBJ Freeway (I-635);
- Shirley Edwards from the Project Management Institute;
- Roberto Mori, president of the International Project Management Association;
- Dr. Bruce Gnade, UT Dallas vice president for research; and
- JSOM graduate student Joseph A. (Joe) Cazares.

Mr. Cazares, vice president for CH2M HILL in Panama, gave an overview of the massive \$5.2 billion Panama Canal Expansion Program he oversees as deputy program manager

and construction manager for the \$3.3 billion new locks portion of the program.

The biggest tests he has faced have not been technical, but cultural and personal. He advised those who may want to get involved in the project: "If you don't have personal skills and social skills, I'm not interested in chatting with you, because it's all about people."

Mr. Cazares established relationships within SOM in 2007 when the Panama Canal Authority awarded CH2M HILL and the school a contract to train canal managers.

During training, Mr. Cazares was given an opportunity to teach a class. He enjoyed his experience so much that he looked into credentials needed to regularly teach at the college level. Learning he needed a graduate degree, Mr. Cazares enrolled in the school's Executive MBA program. ■

## \$10K SCHOLARSHIP ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT IN AN EVENTFUL YEAR

Accounting student earns Texas Business Hall of Fame Award

BY PAULA FELPS

Remsen Jennings didn't think he had great odds for winning a \$10,000 Texas Business Hall of Fame Scholarship, but he also knew "it couldn't hurt" to apply. So when he learned he was one of just 19 recipients of the coveted annual award, it was "a complete shock." However, Mr. Jennings might have been the only one who was surprised.

The criteria for the scholarships are stringent and include demonstrating leadership traits, entrepreneurial achievement, outstanding moral character and a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. Mr. Jennings, who is pursuing a master's degree in accounting at The Naveen Jindal School of Management, graduated summa cum laude from UT Dallas in May with two Bachelor of Science degrees, one in accounting, one in finance. Besides carrying a full load of classes and working full time, he was a UT System Student Advisory Council member, Student Government vice president and president of the Management

Honors Program. His academic achievements earned him recognition from the Golden Key National Honour Society, as well as landing him on the dean's list several times. He was the student speaker at SOM's undergraduate graduation.

Mr. Jennings presently works in pension investments for J.P. Morgan. "I don't think it's sunk in yet," he said of the \$10,000. "Once they have the dinner and I actually get the money — that's when I'll know it's real."

The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation, a Houston-based nonprofit, awards the funds to top contenders attending universities that participate in foundation programs. The foundation will officially present the money at a dinner in Dallas on November 17. In addition to the Texas Business Hall of Fame honor, Mr. Jennings received



Remsen Jennings

a \$2,000 scholarship from the Dallas CPA Society in August (see *Accounting Students Awarded \$10K in Scholarships* below). He also received the AT&T Management Award Scholar Award of \$5,000 after the school's 2009 Scholarship Breakfast and the Trail Blazer Capital Award of \$5,000 after the 2010 breakfast.

Mr. Jennings said the recent scholarships are among the highlights in an eventful year. "The other thing that really stands out is that I got a job offer from Ernst & Young, and I'll begin working with them after I earn my graduate degree," he says. "To me, that's the key indicator that all this hard work has paid off. Now I truly believe that anything is possible."

The Dallas CPA Society has awarded \$10,000, all its scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year, to six Naveen Jindal School of Management accounting students.

The society, a local professional organization with approximately 6,700 certified public accountant members, awards the money annually in a competitive process open to junior, senior and graduate accounting majors at UT Dallas, SMU, Texas A&M

University – Commerce and the University of North Texas. The assistance is meant to encourage students to complete their undergraduate or graduate accounting education and become a certified public accountant.

The JSOM winners and their awards are:

- Casey Crawford, graduate student, \$2,000
- Stan Gershengoren, graduate student, \$1,000
- Diane Henry, senior, \$2,000
- Remsen Jennings, graduate student, \$2,000
- Amy Taylor, graduate student, \$2,000
- Jessica Walton, senior, \$1,000

Their scholarship checks were mailed in August. Winners usually are recognized at the society's annual meeting in January.



Donnie Nelson (at far left in photo at right), co-owner of the Frisco-based NBA development team, the Texas Legends, hosted a Dallas Mavericks watch party last May at the House of Blues and invited The School of Management EMBA Class of 2012. About a third of the class (above) attended the event with EMBA Program Director Dan Bochsler (at right, holding basketball). One highlight was a Western Conference Finals analysis presented by ex-Mavs (next to Mr. Bochsler, left to right) Rolando Blackman, now the Mavs' director of basketball development, Eduardo Najera, now with the Charlotte Bobcats, and Spud Webb, president of basketball operations for the Texas Legends.

## SOM Student Groups Shine in Competition

By Jimmie R. Markham

Teams from two Naveen Jindal School of Management student organizations performed well in competitions last spring.

In April, the campus chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), the collegiate division of Future Business Leaders of America, competed at PBL's state leadership conference in Houston. Seven students won first or second place in events testing entrants' subject knowledge.

In May, the nine-member team of the UT Dallas chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) was first runner-up in the opening round of the SIFE National Exposition in Minneapolis. The team also took first place in the Campbell's Let's Can Hunger Urgent Hunger Relief competition.

"The team has come a long way in two short years," SIFE faculty adviser and JSOM Clinical Professor Rajiv Shah said.

SIFE plans to continue building ongoing activities with its service partner organizations from previous years. Also, UT Dallas Senior Vice President for Business Affairs Calvin D. Jamison awarded SIFE a grant of \$60,000 to install energy monitoring and reduce energy consumption in three buildings on campus: the Jindal School of Management, ECS-North and the Student Union. The grant followed from work that SIFE students did last academic year.

By chartering a new chapter at UT Dallas with more than 60 members in the fall of 2010 and then winning at state, "we definitely broke barriers," PBL faculty adviser and SOM faculty member Jeanne Sluder said.

Before classes began this fall, PBL had put a highly experienced executive board in place for the 2011-2012 academic year, Dr. Sluder said, and planned a sponsored leadership forum.

### SIFE COMPETITION WINNERS

- Jason Addams, MBA 2011
- Dipali Dave, Graduate student in Management and Administrative Sciences
- Shalini Keshavamurthy, Graduate student in Engineering
- Tyler Martin, MBA student
- Sneha Pandit, Graduate student in Supply Chain Management
- Jaynil Patel, MBA student
- Marcelo Preissler, Senior, Global Business
- Hussain Rangwala, Graduate student in Information Technology and Management
- Yesenia Sanchez, MBA student



SIFE students (left to right) Santhanakrishnan Ramaswamy, Sourabh Kosta, Hussain Rangwala and Diana Selvaraj joined the Tarrant Area Food Bank's "Kick the Can" Hunger Drive in Fort Worth last October.

### PHI BETA LAMBDA COMPETITION WINNERS

- Nicholas Xavier Arenas
- Accounting Principles (2nd Place)
- Mohan Chehal
- Business Law (1st Place)
- International Business (1st Place)
- Heather Geiger
- Future Business Executive (1st Place)
- International Business (2nd Place)
- Ty Gornstein
- Retail Management (1st Place)
- Client Services (2nd Place)
- Paulo Lefki
- Microeconomics (2nd Place)
- Sehrish Rezvi
- Hospitality Management (1st Place)
- Macroeconomics (2nd Place)
- Anna Vu
- Public Speaking (1st Place)
- Impromptu Speaking (1st Place)

## ALUMNI NOTES

## 1980s

**Dipak C. Jain**, MS 1986, PhD 1987, began his appointment as dean of INSEAD, a top-ranked global business school founded in 1957, this past



spring. He leads development on three continents, including campuses in Paris, Singapore and Abu Dhabi, as well as a research center in Israel and partnerships in the U.S.

Dipak previously served as dean of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management for eight years, after having joined the faculty in 1986. He was named an SOM Distinguished Alum in 2001, and he received the UT Dallas Alumni Achievement Award in 2005.

A well-regarded teacher and strong academic leader, Dipak is committed to a management ideal that thinks beyond business to pursue both financial success and social significance. Among his projects are efforts to start a business school in Bangladesh that will focus on entrepreneurship for women.

He says that humanity's challenges will demand more, not less, management expertise in coming years. He says business schools will play a central role in advancing prosperity and peace.

## 1990s

**Sam Gilliland**, EMBA 1994, was appointed in March 2011 by President Obama to a new President's Management Advisory Board, which includes private-sector executives who advise the president and his management council on best business practices related to productivity, the application of technology and customer service. An SOM Distinguished Alum in 2003 and recipient of a UT Dallas Alumni Achievement Award



in 2005, Sam is chairman and CEO of Sabre Holdings, a technology company serving the travel and tourism industry. Headquartered in Southlake, Texas, it has approximately 10,000 employees in 60 countries.

Sam already advises the U.S. government on a

wide range of travel and tourism policy issues including air traffic control, environmental issues and airport security. Since 2008 he has served on the U.S. Department of Commerce Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. He also is co-chair of the U.S. Travel Association's Blue Ribbon Panel for Frictionless Aviation Security.

Sam earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Kansas.

He and his family live in Dallas, and he enjoys swimming, running and, of course, traveling.

## 2000s

**Brad Ruzicka**, BSTE 2004, MBA 2007, is the worldwide university marketing manager at Texas Instruments. TI's WWU program supports students, educators and researchers integrating TI technology into course curricula, senior design projects and research projects.



Previously, Brad has worked as a product marketing engineer at TI, an electrical product engineer at Hewlett-Packard and in an engineering co-op role at Alcatel during his undergraduate studies.

Brad and his wife, **Ashleigh Hudnall Ruzicka**, BA 2005, live in McKinney, Texas, with their son.

**Tony Yang**, MBA 2006, is the founder and vice president of business operations for DressMyWay, a custom-design dress business which he founded in 2009 with two partners. Located in the Dallas Design District, DressMyWay ([www.dressmyway.com](http://www.dressmyway.com)) specializes in wedding dresses and formal wear.

Tony says he started the business to empower women to design their own dream dress at an affordable cost. He offers designer-assisted consultations and custom-couture measurements. He says he has restructured the dressmaking supply chain, cutting out designer branding costs and transforming buying into what he believes is a fun and engaging experience.

Previously, Tony ran an international human-resources services startup with U.S. investors and headed the company's office in Shanghai, China.

While at The School of Management, Tony did a concentration in entrepreneurship. He earned an undergraduate degree in advertising at The University of Texas at Austin.

**Neil Farquharson**, MBA 2005, is a marketing manager for Alcatel-Lucent, the global technology vendor that builds broadband Internet and communications networks. There, he says, he is a technology "evangelist," making the technical aspects of new technologies more understandable for customers and colleagues. He also is a regular speaker at industry events.

Neil serves on The Naveen Jindal School of Management's Marketing Volunteer Board, a group of professionals who advise on how to keep marketing curricula up to date with current practices. He is also a volunteer writer for *The Dallas Morning News*, offering opinion on topics such as child safety and civic duty.



Neil earned his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering with honors from the University of Glasgow in 1991. He lives in Plano, Texas, with his wife and family.

**Shivani Sharma**, BS 2006, MBA 2011, is employed by the McKesson Corp., a pharmaceutical distributor and healthcare information-technology company based in Carrollton Texas.

Shivani started at McKesson as a data entry clerk just out of high school. With the company's encouragement and tuition-reimbursement program, she got her bachelor's, then MBA degree while working full time.



Shivani recently accepted a senior management position leading a cross-functional team that supports technology- and process-improvement initiatives for key finance operations, including the accounts receivable department. She is also the program manager for a large-scale, cross-functional SAP implementation.

Shivani achieved Project Management Professional certification last year. She also is an Advanced

Six Sigma Green Belt. Fluent in four languages, Shivani believes in continuous education. Married five years, she is the proud mother of an almost 2-year-old toddler.

**Thomas W. Coleman**, MBA 2007, along with his wife, Bernadette, and their partner, Randall Turner, launched an Internet marketing company in 2010. Advice Interactive Group ([www.adviceinteractivegroup.com](http://www.adviceinteractivegroup.com)) is a full-service Web development and search-engine-optimization company. It specializes in local search, with an emphasis on geo targeting and lead generation.



Currently in expansion mode, the group plans to move into new offices in McKinney,

Texas, and is in the process of opening offices in San Antonio and Orange County, California. The company is working on the development of a technology that will help businesses manage their local search rankings without the expense of a full-service agency.

The Colemans experienced misfortune in late May when their son incurred a traumatic brain injury in an automobile accident. Comatose for more than 10 days, Michael has begun rehabilitation. The Colemans sincerely appreciate good wishes extended to them as Michael continues to recover. Follow his efforts on his Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/TheBeansRecovery?ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/groups/TheBeansRecovery?ap=1).

**Shaun Gill**, EMBA 2009, has continued his entrepreneurial ventures after being involved in a healthcare outsourcing startup in India. He now runs his own law firm in New Orleans, where he developed a fixed-cost sharing model for young solo attorneys looking for operational support. He also has become a multi-unit franchisee with



Doctors Express Urgent Care, which provides a healthcare alternative to emergency-room visits.

Shaun, who earned his undergraduate degree at Louisiana Tech University and his law degree at Southern Illinois University, now resides in the Houston area.

**Giulia M. Ippolito**, BS 2009, is a third-year medical student at Texas A&M Health Science Center in Round Rock, Texas, where she is campus vice president.

Giulia received the TAMHSC Magnolia Tea Scholarship in May. The scholarship is awarded to a woman in medicine for academic excellence and service. Also, her research under Dr. Lani Ackerman, "A Pilot Survey of First-Year Medical Student Skills after Summer International Health



Electives," was published in the Volume 17, No. 1, Spring 2011 issue of *The Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education*.

**Catherine C. Curtiss-Zumwalt**, MBA 2009, is an information technology project manager at Energy Future Holdings Corp. Energy Future Holdings is the parent company of Luminant, Oncor and TXU Energy. Catherine says her primary responsibility is the management of a project and portfolio management enterprise suite that is the central repository for IT project management.



She initially interned as a graduate student with the company, which led to her current position. She has 14 years of IT experience, is a certified project management

professional and has a Foundation Certificate in The Information Technology Infrastructure Library.

She resides in Royse City, Texas, with her husband and daughter.

## 2010s

**Matt Lagos**, BS 2010, works as a pharmacy tech for CVS.

A native of Plano, Texas, Matt ran unsuccessfully this past spring for a seat on the Plano City Council. He came in second in the three-person race, earning 26.2 percent of the vote. *The Dallas Morning News* observed: "Perhaps most surprising was the Election Day performance of Lagos, who ran for the first time."



Matt served as senior senator representing The School of Management on Student Government prior to his debut in public politics.

**MeLinda (MeL) McCall**, MBA 2010, is a founding member a local high-tech startup, Proxomo Software, Inc. Based in Richardson,

Texas, Proxomo is an application programming interface [API] engine that software developers use to add rich-context functionality to smart-phone apps and websites. Proxomo also offers a consolidated gateway to essential third-party APIs such as Facebook and Twitter.

The company's chief business director, MeLinda builds key customer relationships and drives



revenue-generation efforts while overseeing many business-operations needs. She is proud to have provided several internship opportunities at Proxomo for outstanding School of Management graduate students,

including **Don Aldrich**, MBA 2010, **Justin Goodman**, BS 2010, and **Stephen Thuo**, BS 2010.

The recipient last year of a \$10,000 Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation scholarship, MeLinda used a portion of the funds on the Proxomo startup.

MeLinda formerly ran a boutique-consulting business. She also served in key leadership roles within the consumer packaged goods industry, having worked for the Dr Pepper Snapple Group and Coca-Cola Enterprises. She earned her BBA degree — along with a graduate certificate in international business — from Texas A&M University.

**Matthew Moseley**, EMBA 2010, president and CEO of SongBoard Music Publishing, recently started a nonprofit with his 9-year-old son, Kyler. Based in Richardson, Texas, Socks for Souls is Kyler's brainchild. The organization collects, sanitizes and repairs used socks for redistribution to renal therapy and oncology clinics to provide extremity warmth and comfort during dialysis and chemotherapy sessions. Kyler was inspired by a family friend who mentioned her arms would get very cold during dialysis treatment.

Kyler donated an old pair of his hockey socks. The friend's thank-you spawned a conversation about repeating donations on a larger scale. His dad proudly serves as vice chairman and treasurer to provide business, financial and legal assistance.

In July, Socks for Souls landed the Dallas Stars Foundation as its first major sponsor. The Moseleys hoped to hold a Socks for Souls fundraiser event at a Dallas Stars hockey game.



Matthew earned his undergraduate degree at LeTourneau University. He is working toward an MS in accounting at the Jindal School of Management.

**Mary Beth Martin**, EMBA 2011, recently became the first executive director of Maternal Fetal Health for the Colorado Institute of Maternal Fetal Health, a joint venture of the University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital Colorado. The new program will serve healthy mothers delivering by Caesarean section high-risk infants who need surgery

for cardiac, intestine and other problems.

A 20-year pediatric cardiology veteran, Mary Beth has helped build a variety of programs, most recently serving nearly four-and-a-half years as senior director of the Heart Center at Children's Medical Center in Dallas.

She studied nursing at The University of Texas at Austin and earned her BSN at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Earlier this year, she addressed the Cardiology 2011 Conference on the effectiveness of execu-



tive coaching. The Jindal School of Management provides each EMBA student with a personal coach, and Mary Beth says that "when I chose to go to UTD, I was looking not only for the education of an MBA to compliment my clinical expertise, but I wanted to develop myself as an executive leader with an 'executive presence.'...I was very impressed that the school valued... both the educational component of an MBA but also the executive coaching."

**OBITUARY**



**Matthew Michael Didyk**, MBA 1999, of Allen, Texas, died September 25, 2010, at Baylor Heart Hospital. He was 38. Born in Richmond, Virginia, he was a 1993 undergraduate of Texas A&M University. He was the senior vice president of Office Services for Transwestern Commercial Real Estate. He enjoyed golf and was a member of the Golf Club at McKinney, Texas. Other hobbies included cooking, volleyball, skiing, Fantasy Football and entertaining friends. He is survived by his parents, Mike and Dee Didyk of Orange, Texas; brother and sister-in-law Danny and Ashley Didyk and niece Makena Didyk of Prosper, Texas; brother and sister-in-law Drs. Adam and Angela Didyk and nephew and godson Clayton Didyk of Louisville, Kentucky; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

**One Historic Moment**

**The School of Management Receives a \$50 Million Investment**

*Continued from page 5*

support also qualified for a \$5 million match funded by TRIP and the UT System Research Incentive Program.

The Davidsons' gift is one in a series they have made since 2001, when their support helped build the existing School of Management building. Their generosity was commemorated in naming Davidson Auditorium in their honor.

Five years later, the Davidsons made another gift to establish four endowed faculty research positions, known as the Charles and Nancy Davidson Distinguished Professorships.

Their most recent gift will be used, in part, to elevate those professorships to endowed posts, the Davidson Chairs. Money also will support the Davidson Fellows, an endowed program to assist talented management graduate students.

What prompted them to make their third commitment an even larger high-impact gift?

"The School of Management has continued to build on its success in many ways, and we felt that the SOM will be a very important element in UT Dallas' ultimate achievement of Tier One status," Mr. Davidson said. "Our belief was that a large gift made by us now when coupled with Mr. Jindal's very significant gift could propel the SOM to a new level providing further momentum for UT Dallas to achieve Tier One."

"In addition, this was a very unique opportunity," Mrs. Davidson said, "where a significant gift would be eligible for support from both the UT System Board of Regents' Research Incentive Program as well as the Texas Legislature's Texas Research Incentive Program. Through these programs, our gift will ultimately be doubled for even greater funding for The School of Management." **J**



The Naveen Jindal School of Management

**2011 CONTRIBUTOR REPORT**

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT NAMING PARTNERS**  
Naveen Jindal  
Charles and Nancy Davidson

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PARTNERS**  
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
Austin Industries  
Deloitte & Touche USA LLP  
Ericsson Inc.  
Haynes and Boone, LLP  
Jindal Steel and Power Limited  
Lennox International Inc.  
Symon  
Texas Instruments Foundation  
Texas Instruments Incorporated  
United Supermarkets, LLC

**CHAIRS**  
CHARLES AND NANCY DAVIDSON DISTINGUISHED CHAIRS:  
Charles and Nancy Davidson

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