April 2013

The Jones School accreditation from AACSB was reaffirmed in March following its five-year self report and external review by three deans from other business schools. The AACSB accreditation process is 'mission-driven,' meaning that the review emphasizes the mission and strategy of the school, implementation of continuous improvement processes, and the outcomes generated. Kudos to Sean Ferguson, the MarCom staff, and everyone who contributed to the self-report which received high praise from the review team. Thanks also to faculty, staff, students and other stakeholder groups in the Jones School community who contributed toward a successful review.

**Bringing our “A” game**

The school has made significant progress over recent years and we have much to be proud about. Compiling the data for the report and reflecting on our successes has stimulated conversations about our new competitive landscape and led us to initiate a strategic planning process with a series of focus groups with different stakeholder groups — council of overseers, faculty, alumni, staff and students. Faculty members moderating this process with faculty, council and staff are **Brent Smith**, associate dean of Executive Education and associate professor of management and psychology; **Bob Westbrook**, William Alexander Kirkland Professor of Management; and **Manny Chana ’06**, Lecturer in Management and director of health care programs. Each group is providing a unique perspective in defining a comprehensive view of the school, both our challenges and opportunities, as we consider the next steps in our progress towards being a perennial top-tier business school. Initial outcomes and next steps will be formalized by July, and a draft of the strategic plan will be circulated in the fall for further discussion and clarification of our strategic positioning and priorities.

The Rice MBA full-time program ranked No. 17 overall and No. 1 in percentage salary increase from program entry to three years out for alumni (domestic rankings from Financial Times). In addition, two academic areas within the Jones School were recognized among the Financial Times’ top 10 programs in selected categories as rated by alumni. The school ranked No. 4 for accounting (up from No. 9 in 2012) and No. 5 for finance (up from No. 10 in 2012).

**Kerry Back**, Howard J. Creekmore Professor of Finance, published “Strategic liquidity provision in limit order markets” in *Econometrica*, one of the very top journals in economics. In February, the Association of Rice Alumni welcomed Chicago alumni to the University Club for a reception and conversation with **Alex Butler**, associate professor finance and Jones School Distinguished Associate Professor.

Rice Alliance just recently completed another successful Rice Business Plan Competition, this year giving away over $1.7 million to an increasingly global group of teams vying for the top prizes. The two top finishers were both teams from Northwestern with the winner, SiNode Systems, bringing home $911,400 to finance their winning business plan.

**New Opportunities**

**K. Ramesh**, professor of accounting, has been named senior associate dean of academic affairs and will assume official responsibilities on July 1. He will overlap with current senior associate dean and Fayez Sarofim Vanguard Professor of Finance **Jeff Fleming** for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Jeff will return to his research and teaching responsibilities following seven years of distinguished service dedicated to building JGSB as a premier business school. Jeff has been highly effective in our efforts to develop faculty, recruiting new faculty, launching the PMBA, undergraduate business minor, and PhD programs, and guiding curriculum revisions.

Congratulations are in order for **Gerry Sanders**, professor of strategic management. He has been named dean of the business school at the University of Texas, San Antonio as of July 1. On behalf of the entire Jones School, I want to thank Gerry for his commitment to research and his contributions to Rice.

Congratulations also to **Sally Widener**, associate professor of managerial accounting. She has accepted a position at Clemson University. In addition to many contributions through research and teaching, Widener helped to guide the National Association of Women MBAs from a fledgling organization to a truly national powerhouse.

Finally, **Gale Wiley**, senior lecturer in communications and director of the business communications program, is retiring as of July 1. He has been with Jones School since 2002. Along with his busy teaching schedule, Gale has traveled to Rwanda to produce documentaries about Rice MBAs and their work to develop social entrepreneurship in Africa in Marc Epstein’s class *Commercializing Technology in Developing Countries*. For the last six years he has served as a core instructor and videographer for the Rice Summer Business Institute, a program that introduces disadvantaged high school students to the world of business. Gale and his wife Lucy live in Wimberley, Texas. **Beth O’Sullivan** will become the new director of the communications group.

Please join me in wishing the best for our departing colleagues. Announcements of new faculty will appear in the next quarterly report.
Commitment to recruiting top talent to Rice MBA

With competition for top MBA students fierce and support of those students an essential philanthropic priority, the Jones School initiated two major programs: The James W. Crownover Scholars program and the Military Scholars Program. As a tribute to Jim Crownover, retiring Chairman of the Rice Trustees, and in support of a philanthropic priority, a small group of Council of Overseers funded the initial Crownover Scholars program. This program will attract highly sought after MBA candidates allowing us to be more competitive with other prestigious business schools.

The Military Scholars Program encompasses scholarships, the Veterans in Business Association, and a network of alumni and community members. This program is the result of a group of generous alumni and community members who wanted to acknowledge, honor, and support those who proudly serve this country. The Military Scholars Program provides a scholarship and additional funding to cover tuition, fees and expected living expenses for selected applicants who wish to pursue their educational dream of obtaining the Rice MBA degree.

We are proud to announce the first Military Scholar, Ivor Kristiansen, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and former U.S. Naval officer with six years of experience, including a tour in Afghanistan. There are presently 15 veterans in the full-time program. Over the next few years, the Jones School has committed to raising $5M towards military student support and to enrolling a robust 10 percent veteran population in the full-time class.

Bill Glick
Dean
H. Joe Nelson III Professor of Management