August 2012

As I write this another summer is nearly complete and while students were off campus — for the most part — we had a chance to recharge for another academic year. The summer is also a chance to reflect on 10 magnificent years in McNair Hall. Along with the Centennial Celebration, the Jones School family is planning a celebration for this beautiful building over Homecoming Weekend, October 12-14. All students, faculty, alumni and staff are invited to the festivities. We’ll have more details on the website soon.

Today, with Immersion underway, the Jones School continues to embrace change and growth along with a passel of new highly qualified faculty and staff. We are brimming with talent, enthusiasm and gratitude for the events and education that occur daily in McNair Hall, but mostly for the people who make it happen.

**Rewarding Achievement**

After introducing our 10 new full-time and visiting faculty in the last quarterly report and welcoming them to campus throughout the summer, I am honored to report our current faculty’s awards for teaching and research. During the investiture ceremonies, students acknowledged faculty excellence by bestowing the following teaching tributes:

- Business Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching – **Prashant Kale**
- Full-time MBA Award for Excellence in Teaching – **Steve Crawford**
- MBA for Executives Award for Excellence in Teaching – **Karen Nelson**
- MBA for Professionals (evening) Award for Excellence in Teaching – **Sébastien Michenaud**
- MBA for Professionals (weekend) Award for Excellence in Teaching – **Vikas Mittal**

For the second year in a row, the Jones Graduate School of Business faculty research awards recognized the same outstanding professors — **Scott Sonenshein**, for non-tenured faculty research award; **Alex Butler** and **Utpal Dholakia** tied for the tenured faculty research award.

Congratulations are also extended to **Scott Sonenshein**, who received tenure (and no longer qualifies for the non-tenured faculty research award); **James Weston**, who is now full professor; and for endowed chairs awarded to Accounting Area Coordinator **Karen Nelson**, Harmon Whittington Professor of Accounting, and **Ajay Kalra**, Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Marketing.

A fond farewell goes to **Wil Uecker**, professor of management, who announced his retirement effective June 30. A member of the Jones School faculty since 1984, he also served for 11 years as associate dean for academic affairs and eight years as associate dean for executive education. He and his wife, Karen,
expect to engage in a variety of activities, including cycling and dancing, volunteering, traveling, starting a business, and most importantly spending time with their granddaughter who lives with her parents in the Sacramento area where they will be moving soon.

Of his years at the Jones School, Wil says, “The school has grown massively since I joined the faculty and I wish my accounting colleagues the best going forward.” His colleagues and former students extend their heartfelt regard in return.

**Welcoming New Faces**

Since my last writing, we have added 16 new staff members, not all of them strangers to the Jones School. **Manny Chana**, a Rice MBA from 2006, is our new director of health care programs and is working on both the programmatic and executive education sides. **Jeremy Grace** worked at Rice as a lecturer in the communications, humanities and leadership studies, and was associate director of the Office of Academic Advising. Following this, he most recently was associate director of learning and teaching at Australian School of Business at the University of New South Wales in Australia. He now serves as the new director of student services in the full-time MBA program. **Laura Ellenberger** returns to the Jones School and Executive Education as a director following her most recent post in business development at Avangard Innovative, an environmental services company.

The truly new faces you may meet in McNair Hall are: **Michelle Kaltenbach**, assistant director of student services for MBA for Professionals; **Caitlin Crotty**, assistant director CMC; **Lisa Galloy**, external relations coordinator, and most recently with the Association of Rice Alumni; **Heather Ramsey**, client manager, Executive Education; **Johnathan Horton**, accounting assistant, Office of Financial Services; **Pat Salas**, AV technician, OOT/IT; **Megan Libby**, administrative assistant, Executive Education; **Freddy Barnes**, educational technology technician, IT/OOT; **Shereen Hamed**, client manager, Executive Education; **Carol Richter**, faculty assistant; **Abi Mobuse**, faculty assistant; **Marcie Carlson**, faculty assistant; **Shatha Hussein**, graphic production specialist and **Anita Cantu**, administrative coordinator, Dean’s Suite. Welcome to all of you.

As for students, the numbers continue to impress. The full-time program welcomes a robust 119 MBA candidates and the professionals, a record 157. With new executives students still rolling in, the numbers for the class of 2014 will decline somewhat. The overall enrollment in Jones School will grow from 727 to over 800. Ten PhDs in finance, accounting and strategy join the program, totaling 27 doctoral candidates altogether. As the building celebrates its tenth anniversary, the classrooms will be at full capacity.

**Change Is Good**

With the growth we’ve experienced in our programs, our faculty and staff, there is a constant consideration of space and best uses of what we have in McNair Hall. Previously, I’ve mentioned facility programming and design activities as well as a long term architectural plan. Phase I is creating more space to accommodate the addition of faculty and PhD students in the West portion of the building while creating more space for staff, increased conference areas and improvement to seminar rooms in
other parts of McNair Hall. In the coming months, more aesthetic changes will be noticeable on the first floor, such as new chairs and carpeting. Visitors to the first floor will notice the CMC is renovating their offices to make room for a new executive director, and the relocation of Registrar Maria Johnson.

Depending on student growth and fundraising after the Centennial Campaign, Phase II is a few years out and will include two new wings extending to the south from the executive commons and from the executive education private offices. Phase III is likely to complete the space available in our current location by extending the current building to the west. It will likely be 2020 before all three phases are completed.

So, change is good. And when it happens, we like to hear from you. We’ll be recording video during the McNair Hall celebration and would love to record any memories you have of your time in this building or Herring Hall or even Herman Brown Hall. Share your experiences, send us pictures, and help us remember.

While you keep an eye on the website for details about the McNair Hall celebration, check out Centennial events coming up this fall and make a plan to come back to campus for a visit.