April 2012

It’s official. The centennial year is upon us. In October of this year, we will commemorate Rice’s centennial and celebrate the remarkable journey that has transformed a bold little university on the edge of the prairie to an international success on the cutting edge of education and research. It is also the perfect opportunity to celebrate the successes of the Jones School, especially our programs and people — the faculty, students, staff, alumni and even the Rice Business Plan competitors.

Recognition

The Jones School continues on a positive trajectory across multiple dimensions. The Rice MBA Full-time program was ranked among the top 20 in the U.S. by Financial Times and top 25 in U.S. News and World Report. These rankings are the best ever for this program and reflect important long-term improvements in faculty research, teaching quality, student quality, salary progression, and students’ aims achieved in all of our programs. On most of these specific dimensions, the Rice MBA ranks among the top 15. Reputation, however, still lags and keeps some of the overall rankings outside of the top 20.

Our programs are not the only thing making headlines across campus and in the world of graduate management education. It is with great pride that I announce our faculty and staff who have recently received awards at Rice and who hold prominent leadership roles in professional groups associated with business schools. Congratulations to all and thank you for your service and commitment.

- The Association of Rice Alumni announced the recipients of the 2012 Laureates Awards and two Jones School faculty members were included for their meritorious service, Ed Williams, Henry Gardiner Symonds Professor of Management, and Robert Flatt, adjunct professor in management.
- Bob Hoskisson, George R. Brown Professor of Management, and Gerry Sanders, professor of strategic management, were ranked 23rd and 87th, respectively, in an interdisciplinary ranking of the research impact of 2,140 corporate governance authors (Academy of Management Learning and Education, March 2012)
- Sean Ferguson, assistant dean of degree programs, and Ben Guest, associate director of admissions, both received the Rice-wide Centennial Star Award.
- Courtney Wyly, program coordinator in the Office of Student Services, received a Staff Service Award from the Graduate Student Association for her “efforts to go beyond the call of duty to improve the quality of life for graduate students at Rice.”
Staff Impact Awards have been presented to Jon Paul Estrada, Weezie Mackey, Salomon Medina and Tina Smith. The Holman Cup went to Kyle LaRue and the Gibbs Shield went to Eleazar Gavia.

Sean Ferguson was named to a four-year term for the GMAC board of directors. GMAC is a leading programmatic professional organization for graduate management education and also oversees the GMAT exam. Sean joins several other JGSB administrators who have taken leadership roles on the boards of key professional organizations in recent years. Lina Bell, executive director, MBA for Executives program, is on the EMBA Council Board. Deanna Fuehne, executive director of the Career Management Center, is on the board of the MBA CSC (MBA Career Service Council) and is chair of the media relations committee for the board. Brad Burke, executive director of the Rice Alliance, is on the Executive Board of the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers. Bill Glick, dean, is on the AACSB International board. And, until recently, Brooke Sabo, director of student services – Rice MBA for Professionals, served on the board of the Graduate Business Student Services.

Celebrating New Faculty

The Jones School has been successful with faculty recruiting, which was a priority for us this year. We look forward to welcoming our six new tenured/tenure-track faculty members come July and are pleased to be introducing them to you.

- S. (Shiva) Sivaramakrishnan — Henry Gardiner Symonds Professor of Accounting. Shiva was previously a tenured faculty member at Carnegie Mellon, Texas A&M, and the University of Houston, and most recently holds the Peggy Pitman Mays Eminent Scholar Chair at Texas A&M.
- Brian Akins — Assistant Professor of Accounting. Brian is a 2006 graduate of the Rice MBA program and will be graduating this spring from MIT’s PhD program.
- Otilia Obodaru — Assistant Professor of Management (OB group). Otilia received her PhD from INSEAD in 2010 and is finishing up a two-year post-doc at Harvard Business School and INSEAD.
- Annie Zavyalova — Assistant Professor of Strategic Management, graduating from the University of Maryland’s PhD program.
- David De Angelis — Assistant Professor of Finance, graduating from Cornell’s PhD Program.
- Kevin Crotty — Assistant Professor of Finance, graduating from Northwestern’s PhD Program.
- In addition to these new faculty, we will have a total of six full-time visiting faculty members next year. You already know the first two – John Hund and Connie Porter – who have agreed to remain on as Visiting Assistant Professors in Finance and Marketing, respectively. Our other four visiting faculty will be:
- Zac Arens — Visiting Assistant Professor of Marketing. Zac will be graduating from the University of Maryland’s PhD program.
• **Elia Kacapyr** — Visiting Professor of Business Economics. Elia will teach data analysis courses in our MBA programs next year while Sharad Borle is on sabbatical. Elia is Professor and Chair of the Economics Department at Ithaca College.

• **Hajo Adam** — Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Management. Hajo will be filling a new post-doc position in our OB group and will teach a new elective course on Bargaining in our MBA programs. Hajo received his PhD from INSEAD in 2010 and is finishing up a two-year post-doc at Northwestern.

• **Garen Markarian** — Visiting Professor of Accounting. Garen will teach the core financial accounting course in our FT MBA program while Brian Rountree is on sabbatical. Garen is Professor of Accounting at IE Business School in Spain.

### Global Engagement

In celebration of the entrepreneurial spirit and the conclusion of the Rice Business Plan Competition, we want to congratulate all 42 teams, judges, volunteers and staff of the Rice Alliance. The 2012 RBPC was the richest ever with $1.55 million in prizes awarded. The 42 competing teams, including six international teams, were selected from nearly 500 entries from some of the best universities around the world, plus another 1,200 that applied to compete through a new All Asia Business Plan Competition (AAPBC) hosted by The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE). Ashok Rao, JGSB Council of Overseer and TiE Global Chairman, helped to create the AAPBC as a pathway into the RPBC. The 42 competing teams were chosen based on their executive summaries to compete in six categories: life sciences, information technology, energy, clean tech, social and other technologies.

The Rice Alliance did a stellar job of breaking all records for business plan competition prizes with The GOOSE Society of Texas™ tripling their prize purse from $150,000 to $450,000. There were eight prizes of $100,000 or more. NuMat Technologies from Northwestern University walked away with the grand prize, valued at $874,300 and included $775,000 in equity investments and $99,300 of business services including office space, marketing support, and business mentoring. This was the largest grand prize in the history of university-based business plan competitions. Look for a multi-page spread on the RPBC in the next issue of Fortune magazine and many other publications.

Along with the RBPC, the Jones School was host to many vibrant and varied events this past quarter — from the student-run Rice NAW MBA chapter’s 12th annual women in leadership conference, and sixth marketing symposium, featuring prominent marketing executives from Coca-Cola, GE, Cameron and General Mills, to an evening conversation with Sir Ken Robinson, creativity expert and one of the world’s most innovative thinkers on the state of education, sponsored by REEP. The Dean's Lecture Series opened the year with Schlumberger chairman Andrew Gould examining *Industry and Company Consolidation in a Harsh Economic Environment*, and Jones Partners Thought Leadership Series featured James Mulva, chairman and CEO of ConocoPhillips, and Bill Arnold, professor in the practice of energy management, discussing *Reflections on the Oil and Gas Industry*. Corporate and recruiter appreciation events were held at the Houston Rodeo, Masraff’s, and Weiss President’s house. The annual scholarship appreciation dinner was a great success with Terry Giles as the keynote speaker.
With the year of the centennial celebration ahead of us at Rice, Investiture and graduation to prepare for, and the daily transformation of business thought at the Jones School, we hope you will join in the festivities. Looking forward to seeing you.