January 2013

This past quarter has brought celebration, exposition and preparation for the future to the Jones School. As we begin a new year, we forge ahead with the memory of ten wonderful years in McNair Hall, 100 years of Rice University, and our eyes firmly focused on improving those elements that continue to make an education at the Jones School a transformational and inspiring experience.

Celebration

Last year marked the centennial celebration for Rice University as well as the ten year anniversary of McNair Hall.

On October 13, the largest ever attendance of Jones School alumni returned for Centennial Homecoming and Partio. The MBA class of 2007 presented the school with a painting of Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones, which today greets visitors in the Hollingsworth Rotunda. Videos of faculty, alumni and staff recounting the challenges and opportunities of moving from Herring Hall to McNair Hall were presented and Associate Dean Brent Smith shared his memories of transition and honored those faculty who have welcomed each of the ten years since the opening of McNair Hall.

On October 23, we honored the contributions of the McNair and Whitaker families and brought together over 160 donors, faculty, staff and key stakeholders in the creation of this magnificent facility. The evening was hosted by Jay Collins, chairman of the JGSB Council of Overseers and featured contributions from Rice University Trustees Bucky Allshouse and Jim Crownover, and Overseer Ben Hollingsworth. Duane Windsor also paid tribute to former Dean Gil Whitaker. A commemorative photograph of the McNairs was presented and installed in the school’s rotunda and Dean Whitaker’s likeness was added to the façade of the building to honor his leadership. A video tribute to those involved with the building of McNair Hall can be found here:
http://business.rice.edu/mcnairhall_10anniversary_video/

October also featured Troy Alstead, CFO of Starbucks in the Dean’s Lecture Series, and the Jones School accounting faculty emerged in the thick of transformative thought with testimony from Karen Nelson, the Harmon Whittington Professor of Accounting and Stephen Zeff, the Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Accounting, providing expertise to the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in the Shell Auditorium. Finally, we were extremely pleased to welcome back Robert Foye, Rice MBA alumnus and chief marketing, customer and commercial officer of Coca-Cola China in his presentation along with Vikas Mittal, the J. Hugh Liedtke Professor of Marketing in a Thought Leadership Series, presented by Jones Partners.
Exposition

This past fall also brought an exposition of knowledge to the Jones School. The theme of the 2012 Rice Energy Finance Summit was *The New Economics of Energy Security* and a host of industry experts provided guidance and forward-looking thinking on topics such as global regulatory trends, the expansion of the natural gas market and the impact on global energy with the increase in North American production of shale. For the second year in a row, the event was sold out and our students, staff and faculty did an amazing job in executing a world class event seamlessly.

We also welcomed Anne McEntee, president and CEO of flow process technologies, GE Oil and Gas, for another engaging Thought Leadership Series. Dr. McEntee presented along with Mike Grojean, executive director of Rice Executive Education and professor in the practice of management, on the challenges and opportunities of a company being acquired by GE. Upon their return from Liberia, second year Rice MBA students in the Technology Commercialization in Developing Markets course presented business plans and their unique technologies designed by Rice undergraduate engineering students at the 2012 Business Solutions to Global Health & Education forum. Terence McCulley, the U.S. ambassador to Nigeria, was also on hand to give remarks about opportunities available for business in Nigeria and the region. Open to the public, our students and Rice undergraduates and in collaboration with the George R. Brown School of Engineering, this discourse was another example of the school’s commitment to partnering with Rice and the community and sharing what our students are learning.

Preparation

A critical element in former Dean Gil Whitaker’s strategy for gaining global recognition and ranking for the Jones School was accreditation of Rice University by AACSB International in 1998. Our accreditation was reaffirmed five years ago and will be reviewed again in February. As a past president of AACSB, Gil understood the value of their mission driven accreditation standards that are recognized globally as the premier form of accreditation for business schools. AACSB accreditation is a pre-requisite to be ranked by U.S. News & World Report and all top schools in Businessweek are similarly accredited.

In February, a team of three deans from other business schools will visit and review the mission and strategy of the school. They will be talking with representatives of the Council of Overseers, faculty, staff, students, and alumni to get a better understanding of our strategy, continuous improvement processes, and outcomes. At the end of the visit, they will visit with President Leebron and Provost McLendon to share their observations and recommendations regarding accreditation maintenance. Final approval of their recommendations, however, will not be announced until after AACSB Board approval in April.

The self report for the accreditation maintenance process (distributed to staff and faculty earlier this month) documents the school’s progress since the last accreditation maintenance five years ago and our plans for the next five years. Looking back at the strategic plan from 2006, we have made substantial progress on our goals: 1) we are now delivering top 15 performance on most of the metrics that matter; 2) our reputation has improved to a top 30 or solid top 40 position; 3) total program enrollments have grown from 512 to 853; 4) total full-time faculty have grown from 53 to 66; and 5) we have developed
areas of excellence around energy, health care and entrepreneurship. Therefore, we are in a much different strategic position than 2006 with a different competitive set, different opportunities, and different challenges. These changes will be the focus of an in-depth strategic planning process for 2013.

We are also preparing for the incoming classes of students to the Jones School. Admissions metrics for the class of 2015 are consistent with quality from last year. We’ve seen an increase in applications for the MBA for Professionals program and currently have a 14 percent decrease in full time applications compared to this time last year. This decrease has come despite record-setting attendance at admissions information sessions and an increase in inquiries and interest in MBA fairs.

Into the New Year

With the beginning of 2013, we have already realized some exciting news in the representation of faculty expertise in respective areas of study. Shiva Sivaramakrishnan, the Henry Gardiner Symonds Professor of Accounting, was recently awarded the 2012 Impact on Management Accounting Practice Award for his research on product costs as decision aids. This award recognizes the single piece of research every year that is judged to have the greatest potential impact on managerial accounting practice. The new year will also see greater representation of Jones School faculty in some important positions. Scott Sonenshein, associate professor of management, was recently appointed as an associate editor for the Academy of Management Journal. He follows in the footsteps of other faculty who currently serve or previously held this influential position including Anthea Zhang and Gerry Sanders. Alex Butler, the Jones School Distinguished Associate Professor, begins his term this year after being appointed to the Society of Financial Studies (SFS) Council, a governing body that serves as the board for that esteemed organization.

As we prepare for another successful year at the Jones Graduate School of Business, I invite you to increase your involvement with the exciting events and opportunities at the Jones School, all of which may be found at: business.rice.edu/events

Also this year, as you interact with various groups and represent the school, please keep in mind that we’ve created a helpful resource in our Path of Excellence, which may be found here: business.rice.edu/future

Happy New Year,

Bill Glick
Dean
H. Joe Nelson III Professor of Management