

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SCHOOL OF

FALL/WINTER 2008/09

BUSINESS

WWW.BUSINESS.UALBERTA.CA ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUCCESS AND

Significance

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY

EVENTS 2009

- January 29 (Calgary)** U of A Calgary Centre Open House
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
#120, 333-5th Avenue SW
- January 29 (Calgary)** Eric Geddes Lecture ~ Speaker: Gordon Pitts
Topic: "Money or Mud: Alberta's Business Culture in Boom and Bust"
- January 30 (Edmonton)** 8:00 am ~ Chamber of Commerce (Calgary)
8:00 am ~ Royal Glenora Club (Edmonton)
- January 31 (Edmonton)** Undergraduate Awards Ceremony and Luncheon
11:30 am – 1:30 pm ~ Winspear Centre
- February (Edmonton and Calgary)** Eric Geddes Lecture ~ Speaker: Ujjayant Chakravorty
Canada Research Chair in Natural Resource Economics, Alberta School of Business
- February 13 (Edmonton)** Hockey in the Bears' Den
7:30 pm ~ Clare Drake Arena
- February 25 (Toronto)** Business Alumni Luncheon
- March (Edmonton)** Eric Geddes Lecture
Author: Brian Natrass
- March 4 (Edmonton)** Canadian Business Leader Award Dinner
Recipient: Hal Kvisle, President and CEO of TransCanada Corporation
5:15 pm ~ Shaw Conference Centre
- March 5 (Ottawa)** Oilers vs Senators – Reception & Game
Hosted by UAA
5:00 – 11:00 pm ~ Pub 101 and ScotiaBank Place
- March 22 (Napa Valley, California)** Alumni Wine Tasting and Luncheon
10:30 am – 2:00 pm
Cliff Lede Vineyard/25 Degrees Brix Restaurant
- March 30 or 31 (Edmonton)** Princeton Developments Ltd. Distinguished Lectures in Finance
- March/April** MBA Awards Ceremony and Reception
- April 25 (Vancouver)** Olympic Village Tour and Presentation
Richard Damecour, '88 MBA
- June 4 (Edmonton)** MBA Convocation
10:00 am ~ Jubilee Auditorium
- June 9 (Edmonton)** BCom Convocation Luncheon
12:30 pm ~ Maple Leaf Room, Lister Centre
- June 20 (Ontario)** Alumni Wine Tasting
Angels Gate Winery ~ Beamsville
- June 22 (Edmonton)** Chancellor's Cup Golf Tournament
1:00 pm
- July 8 (Calgary)** 3rd Annual Stampede Breakfast
7:00 am ~ Ceili's Pub and Restaurant

THIS ISSUE

“The University of Alberta celebrated its Centenary in 2008 and hundreds of Business School alumni, representing eight decades, attended events throughout the year and throughout the world. The success of our graduates, like our cover story Neil Manning, the significance of their careers and their choices, gives us so much to celebrate.

In this extended issue you will also read about Mike Loenen, a leader in energy and finance and Lynne Bigam, a leader in retailing and family business. Also featured are an incredible group of wide-ranging winners of local, provincial, national and global awards. Many of our leading alumni continue to be recognized for their entrepreneurial energy and their charitable commitments showing that success and significance do indeed go hand in hand.

It also became clear that no matter where our alumni are throughout the world, the name “Alberta” is something they are proud of and that there is significant brand equity in our current moniker. It was most fitting then that the year also saw the announcement of the School’s \$20 million “Preservation of the Name Campaign.” The momentum, as you will read, continues to build.



“Behind every leading economy, there is a leading business school” is this year’s tagline. And despite the economic downturn, the University of Alberta School of Business will continue to lead as noted in Gordon Pitts’ newly released book “Stampede.” An investment in higher education and lifelong learning has never been as important.

Monica

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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contents

FEATURES

2

Alumni Profiles

Mike Loenen
Lynne Bigam
Steven Koles and Jay Baydala
Blythe Butler and Rob Duteau

DEPARTMENTS

8

Business Alumni Association

Celebrating the Centenary

22

School and Campaign News

Preservation of the Name
Neil Manning

26

Programs and Student News

BCom, MBA, PhD

34

Pages in Time

Stampede - Gordon Pitts

36

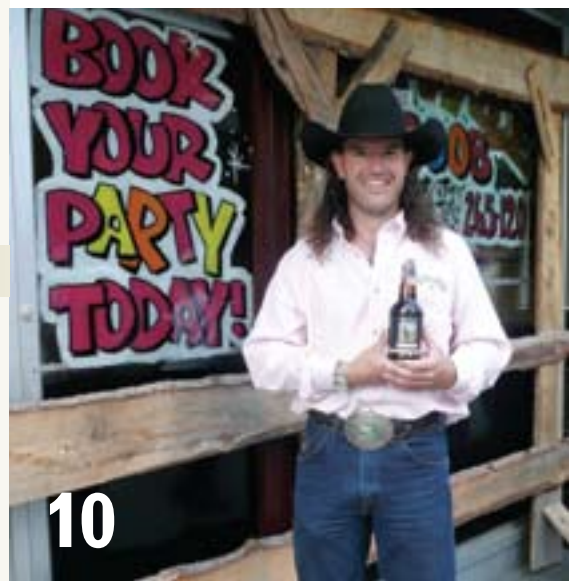
Classnotes

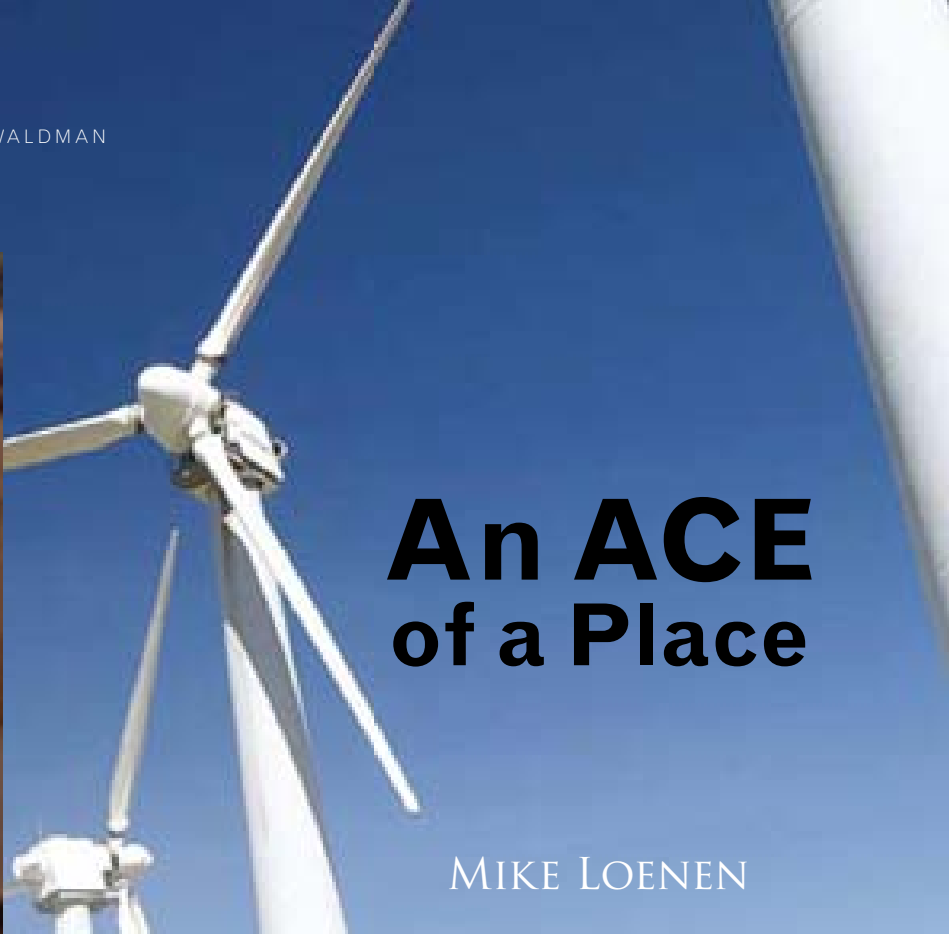
Leading Alumni

48

One Year Out

Cameron Linke





An ACE of a Place

MIKE LOENEN

After spending nearly nine years buying energy for a consortium of power cooperatives in the United States, Mike Loenen, '00 MBA, knows about scarce resources.

Among the scarcest, he says, are MBAs who understand the energy industry. That's why the U of A's Natural Resources and Energy (NRE) MBA specialization is so important he told students during his long anticipated November trip to Edmonton where he delivered two well-attended lectures in as many days at the Alberta School of Business. Mike was also accompanied by his daughter Rebecca, whose excitement to see her cousins on the family farm was scarcely containable!

"A NRE specialization is a scarce and required commodity in the US energy industry," he says. "What this industry needs is 50 NRE programs. What you're learning here is an excellent interdisciplinary approach to energy."

Mike is the Manager of Structured Products at ACES Power Marketing, a suburban Indianapolis company that

serves as the financial risk management arm for about 35 giga-watts of generation and load for 16 energy cooperatives in the United States. To put that into perspective, ACES is responsible for providing power to 15 million people from Maine to California and from the Pacific Northwest to Florida.

ACES, which deals in power, natural gas, coal, emission allowances, and renewable energy credits, is almost exclusively on the buy side. Mike's job is to craft, solicit, break down and negotiate power supply offers in an attempt to ascertain the fair market value and portfolio fit. Given that the value of energy sources seems to change almost by the second, that's a considerable challenge.

"As my youngest son once put it, 'Dad deals with messy, expensive energy things,' Mike says, adding the obvious:

that commodity markets are extremely volatile. You need look no further than your local gas pumps where prices have been rising and falling over the past six months like carts on a roller coaster.

"Hourly power prices can hit multi-thousand dollar figures very quickly" Mike says. "The market humbles one quickly as the mark-to-market swings on a multi-hundred million-dollar deal are sizeable."

The NRE program prepared Loenen for that unpredictability. "Andre (Plourde) and Joseph (Doucet) have fashioned a gem in the rough in this program," he says. "People realized when they came out that they had a high-calibre education. You look back and you can't help but be appreciative for what you experienced."

Mike was in the first NRE class which graduated in 2000. Then, as now, the curriculum included public policy, energy

economics, and finance as well as insight into the importance of understanding the different personalities represented in the energy industry.

“A plant engineer looks at an inefficient peaking power plant a lot differently than an environmentalist or a politician would,” Mike says. “Many disparate groups sit at the energy table, and they generally communicate poorly with each other. The NRE program helped facilitate an ingrained appreciation of these differing viewpoints.”

Mike, who has degrees in math and economics from the University of British Columbia, enrolled in the program because he wanted to train for a career where he could draw on his passion for politics, history, and economics. “The global energy market is where nations collide with each other, cooperating and competing on many levels,” he says.

Canada’s energy industry was in tough shape when Mike graduated. He wrote job letters to the top 100 energy firms and received only one response. The situation in the United States was much more encouraging due to the onset of deregulation in the power markets.



Mike loves his work at ACES. He and his wife Marilyn and their three children, ages 14, 12, and 10, are very happy in Indiana especially when it snows!

The Midwestern sensibility reminds him of western Canada where both he and Marilyn grew up. But there’s no denying that he misses home and not just because it’s where his family is. “I will never make it as a career coach because I’ve pretty much done everything backwards since landing in Indiana,”

he says. “The Albertan economy promptly went red hot, the Alberta real estate and Canadian dollar skyrocketed, and I made the fateful choice of applying for a green card, which cascaded into a multi-year journey.”

Mike isn’t entirely sure how President-elect Barack Obama’s administration will affect the energy industry, but there’s no denying that there will be changes with the Democrats controlling all three legislative branches of the government.

“Carbon regulation is likely coming in the US, and everyone has been gearing up for it,” Mike says. “Despite the press in the US and Canada, the Americans have actually been studying and debating emissions policy for the past decade.”

Coal-fired generation construction has slowed markedly in the US, as all the players anticipate regulatory change. “They’re primarily focused on building natural gas-fired and renewable generation,” Mike says.

As for wind generation, Mike says “it’s an excellent addition in small regional quantities. Unfortunately, wind generation causes many unintended system-wide consequences when overbuilt. The wind doesn’t always blow when you need it to such as like during the daily evening peak in the summer months. You need to build a system that will cost-effectively cover the system load peak. Wind is an intermittent resource and you can’t readily hedge potential future wind gusts.”

Indeed, you can’t hedge much when it comes to energy - except for the people involved. “This industry is foundational to a developed economy and companies are gradually becoming aware that they need people who have a long-term global perspective,” Mike told students at the Alberta School of Business. “You’re getting an excellent education - the value of which will become increasingly evident over the course of your career.” 



Back Home

Daughter Rebecca (12) and niece Julia (13) on the family hog farm in Lacombe – “this seminal location is where the sheepish city slicker did fall in love with an Albertan farm girl after all!”

BY DEBBY WALDMAN

When Lynne Bigam, '91 MBA, was diagnosed with celiac disease in 1987, she had a hard time finding food that wouldn't make her sick.

FOOD for Thought

LYNNE BIGAM

Celiac disease damages the small intestine. People with the condition cannot digest gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye, triticale and barley. A few years after her diagnosis, Lynne and her husband Jerry discovered a local bakery, Kinnikinnick Foods, which specialized in gluten-free products. They shopped there so often they got to know owner Ted Wolff von Selzam who predicted that someday they would own the company.

Wolff von Selzam's notion wasn't so far-fetched: Jerry was a businessman who had run several successful companies. But while the Bigams didn't take his suggestion seriously at first, they slowly had a change of heart. In 1997, they and their eldest son Jay bought 50 percent of the company. In 2004, they bought it outright, and quickly decided to retain

the name. "While most of our customers can't say it and can't spell it, they sure do remember it" says Lynne.

Since then, they've grown Kinnikinnick, also a northwestern ground cover, from a local business with fewer than 20 employees working in 3,000 square feet to a leader in the North American gluten- and dairy-free food market. Roughly 150 people work for the company, which now has 145,000 square feet of production, office, and retail space north of downtown Edmonton which houses this impressive maze of state-of-the-art machinery.

In addition to the local store, Kinnikinnick sells its products – everything from its delicious chocolate chip cookies to its best-selling tapioca rice bread – over the Web. Customers,

many of them celiacs who can't get the food they want and like close to home, place up to 750 online orders a week. Then there are corporate customers including Kroger, Safeway, Loblaws, Whole Foods, and Sobey's. As well, hotels, theme park resorts, and cruise lines throughout North America serve Kinnikinnick products.

Over 70% of their products are US bound where the issue of homeland security is one of their biggest exporting challenges. Kinnikinnick is also involved in importing as many of their ingredients are not available in Canada. Tapioca starch comes from Thailand and rice flour from the US.

By the time the Bigams bought into Kinnikinnick, Lynne, a former teacher, had completed the U of A's joint LLB/

MBA program, but she had no plans to work in a family company. She'd enrolled in the program because she was interested in law and business. She was also attracted to the idea of earning two degrees in four years.

"I'm not sure that I really knew where my career was going to take me," she says. "That was the nice thing about the combined degree – it gave me a lot of options."

Upon graduating, she opted to article and was called to the Alberta bar. She started her own firm and later worked with a local firm where she focused on corporate and commercial law, which gave her plenty of opportunities to use her MBA training. In 1999, Dr. Lloyd Steier was working to develop the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Family Enterprise at the School of Business and Lynne joined the Centre as Associate Director. She also did some lecturing as a sessional at the School of Business.

At the same time, Kinnikinnick was growing quickly. It needed her – or someone like her. "We were either going to have to hire someone with my skill set or I was going to have to make the big decision and move myself," she says. "It just made sense at the end of the day."

It wasn't an easy decision. Lynne enjoyed the law and her work at the U of A. She told herself that if she was unhappy at the company, she could always go back to her practice. But she found that her new titles, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Counsel, gave her even more opportunities to use the skills she'd honed in her post-graduate studies.

"I get to deal with the financial side, the people side, and the marketing side," she says. "I get to have a say in virtually everything." And Lynne also does almost all of the human resource training at

Kinnikinnick, allowing her to return to her first love of teaching. Lynne also enjoys coming back annually to speak to Trish Reay's International Family Business class.

When Kinnikinnick was in its infancy 17 years ago, selling its products at a local farmer's market, medical professionals estimated that one in 2,000 people had celiac disease. Recent statistics from the National Institute of Health put the numbers at one in 133. And the belief is that only five percent of celiacs have been diagnosed.

That leaves another 95 percent to realize that they, too, should be eating gluten-free. Add to that the increasing number of parents of autistic children who believe their children's behaviour is greatly improved on a gluten- and dairy-free diet, and it's easy to see why the market is suddenly so very hot.



More consumers mean more producers and Kinnikinnick has certainly seen an increase in competition. But Lynne remains confident that the company can stay at the forefront. "You have to have the best quality food at the end of the day and we pride ourselves on high quality food that's safe for celiacs," she says. "There's no risk of cross-contamination."

When Kinnikinnick employees gather every month to celebrate staff birthdays, Lynne reads letters from grateful customers, many of them parents of autistic children, who write to say,

"You've given me my child back."

"Our staff need to know they're helping people," Lynne says. "We're not just a food- production company. We're more than that. It's really important for people in their day-to-day lives, whether they're coping with celiac disease or autism, to know that they can deal with a company like ours where it's not just about business acumen, it's about a degree of empathy and humanity. They're not just ordinary customers." ■

Kinnikinnick Foods – A Textbook Example




Edmonton's Kinnikinnick Foods was chosen by **Professor Ross Bradford, '85 MBA**, as an example in the textbook

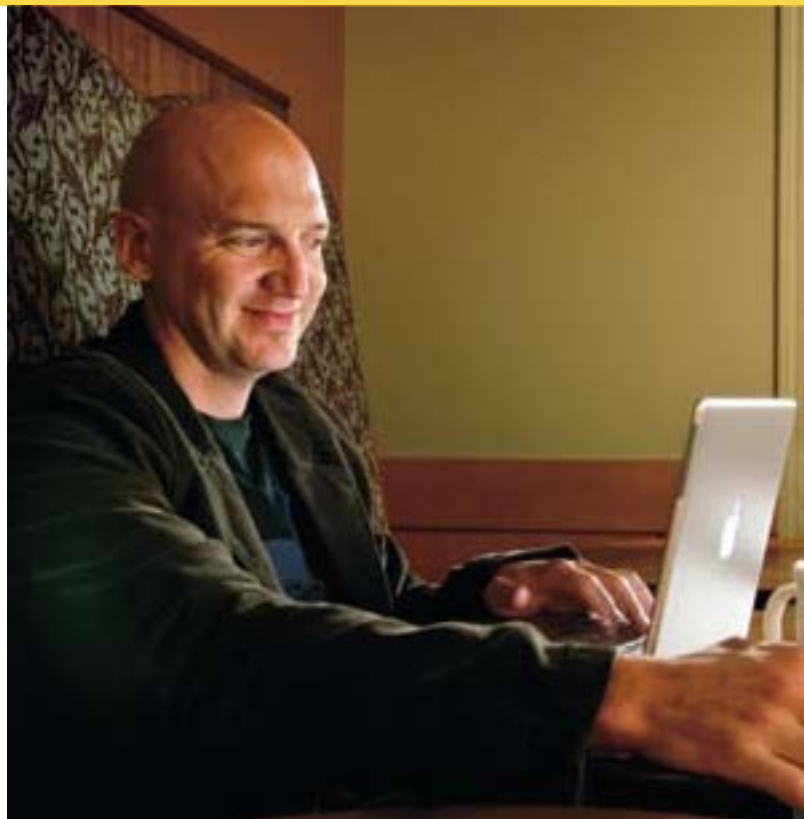
Understanding Management, for which Ross was the co-author of the Canadian edition. The textbook, published in March by Nelson Education, was originally written by US authors Richard Daft and Dorothy Marcic from Vanderbilt University. The publisher then wanted a Canadian version because a common complaint is there are few books targeted to Canada.

"This was a first. It (the offer) came out of the blue," shares Ross, a multiple teaching-award winner of human resources for the School of Business. Ross is also the Faculty representative, and longest-serving member of the School's Business Alumni Association, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. While surprised to participate in the new textbook, Ross very much believed in the purpose – "a Canadian version helps students learn because they can better identify with the companies" says Ross. ■

A New Direction


Steven Koles, '92 BCom, is President and CEO of Hemisphere GPS and is leading the 250-employee company to a future where John Deere tractors will sow and plow fields without a driver. Steven joined Hemisphere in 2006. Then named CSI Wireless Inc, the company was floundering in three directions. Besides GPS, it had also ventured into wireless telecommunications and telematics. Steven sold off everything but the GPS business. Then, he dramatically returned the renamed hemisphere GPS to record profitability. The stock shot up from \$1.67 to a 52-week high of \$4.92.

That was like the perfect powder run for Steven, an avid skier who was a member of the Alberta Alpine Ski Team in his teens. "I just like winning," he says. "It's a factor that governs almost everything I do." Steven's next goal is to garner more recognition for the innovative technology work that's going on in Alberta. "On a national basis, I don't think Alberta gets its fair crack," he says. "Part of me really wants Alberta to get noticed on the map." 



Proof of Impact

Jay Baydala, '93 BCom, heads ChristmasFuture, a non-profit that offers gift cards for various selected charities. The multimedia Website keeps donors updated by showing them exactly how their money has affected a community – a unique spin on return on investment that Jay calls "proof of impact." ChristmasFuture has had a phenomenal response already with more than 2,000 donations since the Website's December launch.

The inspiration came while he was touring the Third World and, upon returning, was so disenchanted with consumerism that he "destuffed." He quit his corporate IT job and sold everything he owned. The money from selling his condo, SUV, and electronic gadgets was poured into CF's startup. His simple lifestyle, along with yoga, running and swimming, keeps his mind clear and focused. He shrugs off the opinions of former IT colleagues who consider his miniscule salary as being insane. "Not once have I felt shaken on my choice or afraid of what the outcome might be," he says. 

Reprinted from

TOP 40 UNDER 40
– CALGARYINC September 2008



One Hot Portfolio

As Vice-President, Client Services, for Arcturus Realty Corporation, **Rob Duteau, '91 BCom**, currently oversees a real estate management portfolio in excess of 6.5-million square feet. He has also helped double the company's regional portfolio in the past year.

In his spare time, Rob also oversees the hottest ticket in town during the annual Calgary Stampede – The Stampede Roundup. Rob is the guy responsible for putting together the annual outdoor music festival and bringing names like Billy Idol, INXS and Dwight Yoakam to Calgary. Over the past five years, the event has also raised more than \$500,000 for The Rotary Club of Calgary.

And when he isn't busy ensuring the like of Billy Idol have their specified amount of Fiji water, Rob is restoring classic muscle cars, renovating a heritage house, playing hockey or soccer, and preparing for the birth of his first child. **F**

A Perfect Fit

Blythe Butler, '00 BCom, is the Communications and Program Development Manager with Calgary's Simpect Strategy Group. At Simpect, Blythe helps companies such as TD Bank, Enbridge Inc., CIBC, TELUS Corporation and TransCanada Corporation measure the performance of their community and volunteer contributions. Through workshops and one-on-one meetings, she helps them set up a series of measurements including cash, time, in-kind donations and management costs to capture and calculate the long-term impact of each philanthropic-related effort on society. Last year, Blythe also helped Simpect increase the number of companies it works with by 100 percent. "I like making a difference in the community," she says.

Blythe feels fortunate that her work combines her two passions, "I like the corporate world. I have a financial background. But I'm also drawn to the community. This is a perfect fit." "Being born in Alberta . . . is as privileged as you can get on this planet," she says. "I feel a huge responsibility to make it better." **F**



With thanks to editor **Carol Harrington** and writers: **Anthony A. Davis (Koles); Penelope Graham (Baydala and Butler); and Kim Benn-Hilliard (Duteau).**

BUSINESS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Formed in 1988, the University of Alberta Business Alumni Association represents more than 20,000 BCom, MBA, and PhD graduates of the Alberta School of Business with branches across Canada and around the world.

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KEEP IN TOUCH

Please take a moment to update your current contact information and send a classnote for a future issue of *Business Alumni Magazine*.

Go to page 47 or visit
www.business.ualberta.ca/alumni

BAA AGM – June 18, 2008

The 2008 Business Alumni Association Annual General Meeting was held at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald and attendees were able to enjoy the company of fellow graduates at a reception following the business meeting. Mark the next AGM in your calendars for June 17, 2009.



BAA President Darryl Lesiuk, '91 BCom and '07 MBA; Jeff Koskinen, '06 MBA; and Kelly Purych, '06 MBA.



Kurian Tharakan, '85 BCom; Scott Montgomery; and Bruce Acton, '89 MBA.



Julianna Cantwell, Tracey Scarlett, and friend.



Dean Mike Percy, Professor Ujjayant Chakravorty, and BAA Director Christoph Wilser.



Tyson Purcha, '04 BCom; Amanda Shuha; and Landon White, '03 BCom.

100! YEARS

CELEBRATING the CENTENARY

The U of A Centenary celebrations continued in full swing throughout the year, and the School of Business marked this very special anniversary with alumni events in cities across the country.

The celebrations will continue into 2009. Check out the calendar for a list of upcoming events that may be taking place in your part of the world.

Kelowna – June 4, 2008

Campaign 2008 Chair Hugh Bolton and his wife Margot hosted a dinner for our Business grads at their beautiful home in Kelowna in early June. University of Alberta Business grads from throughout the Okanagan enjoyed meeting with fellow alumni and the spectacular view of the valley from poolside at the Boltons' home.



Chef Derek Thompson, hosts Margot and Hugh Bolton, Dean Mike Percy. Front row: Winston and Jenny



Leo Jacques, '64 BCom; David Darling, '66 BCom; Lynora Darling, and Sue Jacques



Wendy Kavanagh, Amit Monga, and Serge Beaudry, '02 MBA



Bill Lewis, '72 BCom; Ken Laloge, '77 BCom; and Lynn Lewis



Nella Sabo, '05 BCom; Michelle Hyde, '03 BCom; Nick Hyde; and Duane Bentley, '02 BCom

Spruce Meadows
Calgary – June 5, 2008

One of the most popular alumni events taking place in Calgary each year is the annual show jumping event at Spruce Meadows. The 2008 event was, once again, a sellout and enjoyed by a host of Business alumni.



Dick McKinnon, '54 BCom; Lorraine McKinnon; Don Friesen '77 BCom; and Brenda Scott.



John Francis, '53 BCom; and Robin Harvie, '53 BCom



John Denholm, '42 BCom; Bill Tye, '54 BCom; Lois Francis, and June Tye.

Calgary – July 9, 2008
Stampede Breakfast

On July 9 – the School of Business held its Second Annual Stampede Breakfast in Calgary. More than 200 of our Business alumni in Calgary joined Dean Mike Percy for the early morning gathering at Ceili's Pub including Stampede Chuckwagon Outrider Wayne Wright. Mark July 8 in your calendar for the 2009 event. Yahoo!



Rodeo Outrider and Business alumnus Wayne Wright, '90 BCom



Calgary Alumni get in the Stampede spirit.



Torey Celinskis, '06 BCom; Graham Starko; Dave Baboneau, '04 BCom; and Kevin Tychon, '07 BCom



(L) Craig Senyk, '95 BCom; Jon Wrathall, '00 BCom (R); and friends



(R to L) Steve Glover, '87 MBA; Michelle Stanners, '85 MBA; and friend



The 2008 Champions – Paul Martens, Brent Buchanan, Mike Edmonds, Ray Hawrelak.



Tournament title sponsor Chris Grey, with fellow MBA alumni Pat Shaver and Jordan Hokanson.

2008 Business Alumni Association Golf Tournament

– September 15, 2008

The 10th Annual BAA Golf Tournament was held at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club on September 15. In the best turnout in the tournament's history, more than 100 alumni and guests teed up to enjoy a spectacular sunny September afternoon and raise funds for the Business Alumni Association Scholarships.

Special thanks to our title sponsor, Chris Grey of Grey Wealth Management Group, all of our hole sponsors, and golf organizing committee members Russ Farmer, Chris Grey, Bart Goth, and Mike House. 

Grey Wealth Management Group



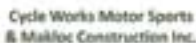
RBC Asset Management



R. Allan Farmer Professional Corp.



BDO Dunsmuir LLP Chartered Accountants and more



Canmore Alumni Event

– October 3, 2008




Business Advisory Council members Phil Lachambre, '76 BCom; Barry James, '80 BCom; and Guy Turcotte, '76 MBA



The 18th hole at the Silvertip Resort.

In early October, the School of Business hosted its first ever alumni reception in Canmore, Alberta. The event was held in conjunction with the bi-annual Business Advisory Council (BAC) meeting at the Silvertip Resort. Alumni enjoyed meeting many of the School's BAC members and the magnificent views of the Rocky Mountains right outside the windows.

Special thanks to BAC Chairman Guy Turcotte for hosting the event. 



BAC member Trisha O'Malley; Marion Whitworth; Steve Glover, '87 MBA; and Jack Whitworth, '55 BCom



Thomas Beyer, '88 MBA and Karl Funke, '87 MBA

REUNION WEEKEND – September 18 - 21, 2008

Business Open House and Brunch

More than 200 alumni and their guests returned to campus on September 20th to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the U of A, and their graduation from the School of Business. Alumni representing eight (!) decades enjoyed meeting other Business grads as well as some of our talented and engaging current students who led tours of the building and answered questions about attending the Business School in the new millennium.

30s
Norm Haddad

40s
John Denholm



Norm Haddad, '39 BCom, and John Denholm, '42 BCom

Norm Haddad, '39 BCom, graduated from the U of A at the young age of 21, after skipping a couple of years of grade school.

He started keeping the books for his father's stores in Saskatchewan at the age of 13 and when the family's accountant said Norm had done a good job, Norm's father decided his son should go into accounting as a profession.

Before the Second World War, he earned \$12.50 a week at a bargain basement store in downtown Edmonton.

He then articleed for \$40 a month for George P. Ponton, CA, \$10 over the going rate because he'd just lost two men who volunteered for the air force.

After the war, Norm worked at MacIntosh and Christianson Chartered

Accountants starting at \$140 a month. He conducted his entire career there until he retired in 1980 after which he continued to work part time on a consultant basis for a few years.

When he started at the firm, there were five other employees and, by the time he left, the staff had grown to more than 100 in Edmonton. In that time span, the company had numerous name changes and, by 1972, was the largest CA practice in Canada and was called Thorne, Gun, Helliwell and Christianson.

During the Alumni Open House and Brunch in September, Norm got the chance to meet many of the younger alumni and some current students. Some of those included members of the Program for Research and Investment Management Excellence (PRIME), a student group that manages a portfolio of investment funds, which is a hobby of Norm's.

Norm says he'd recommend accounting to anyone with an aptitude

for numbers, but added he really enjoyed working with the clients also, even making house calls, which shows it's not just doctors who used to provide that personal and professional service.

John Denholm, '42 BCom

For over half a century John has been the catalyst behind three class reunions and staying in touch with each of his classmates (and often their spouses) whenever possible. He often visits and e-mails his good friend **Glen Patterson**, also a '42 BCom grad, who lives in Vancouver and also stayed in touch with classmate Fay Anderson of Calgary. All of us were saddened to learn of Fay's passing. John attends as many University events as possible both in Edmonton and in Calgary. John was our most distinguished cowboy at the School's Stampede Event in July (see page 36 of Classnotes for John's colourful Stampede email) and will be at the opening of the U of A's Calgary Centre on January 29.

After the Centenary Celebrations that were part of Reunion Weekend this fall, he again shared a thoughtful email with us:

“This is to thank the School of Business team for your many efforts and courtesies at the Homecoming. I enjoyed the Brunch and tours Saturday and appreciated the drop-off at my friend’s residence at Rosedale in the Park. The Gala dinner was great – saw a number of folks I know including some I did not expect to see including Dick Haskayne and his wife Lois – I have known Dick for many years. Dick’s name is associated with the School of Business at U of C, but I know that he is a U of A alumnus. On Sunday morning, Mike Percy gave me a set of fine ball pens – always useful – thanks to you folks for those. He also gave me a set of pens for Betty Towerton Thomson. I gave those to her and had a short visit with her at the breakfast. Since getting home, I have sent a message to Glen Patterson telling him what he missed at Edmonton.

As far as my career is concerned, after the BCom at U of A in 1942, I went on to get my CA designation, managed to get that on first try at the final exams in 1945. In my time as a CA, was in public practice in Edmonton, then in industry in Calgary, Winnipeg and Montréal. From working in shared office space in downtown Edmonton to the 41st floor of Place Ville Marie in Montreal. From a final year class of 15 at U of A taught by Professor Francis G. Winspear to the thousands now registered at the School of Business at U of A. Our Commerce Class of ’42 has had three reunions – 42 years later in 1984, after 50 years in 1992, and after 60 years in 2002. I have enjoyed the hospitality of the U at Homecomings in other years. Now retired, I do a little volunteering at the Church I attend and at Calgary Meals on Wheels. The only complaint I have is that, as a retired person, I never get a day off!”

50s

50s

The Class of ’57 had so much fun reconnecting at their golden anniversary last year that several came back for the 100th anniversary celebrations in 2008 including class organizer Harry Laslop (Edmonton), Orest Humeniuk and Harry Schaefer (Calgary), and Michael Denega who flew in from Toronto for the celebrations!



Class of ’57 BComs Harry Laslop, Orest Humeniuk, Michael Denega, and Harry Schaefer.

60s

60s

Led by organizing committee Derek Bennett, Don Kemp, and Ken Zender, the BCom Class of ’68 held a 40-year reunion at Don Kemp’s home in Edmonton. Thirteen of their classmates and spouses attended the evening and most also attended the Faculty brunch and the Gala Ball. Plans are already being made to attend the 50th in 2018!



Michael McAfee with Class Organizer and party host, Don Kemp.



BCom Class of ’68 Stan Hiller, class organizers Ken Zender and Derek Bennett, Wayne Schellenberg, Wayne Olsen, Michael McAfee, Grant LeDrew, Wynn Payne and Peter Fuhrman. (missing from photo, Bob Cochlan and Don Kemp)

70s

70s

MBA Class ’73

In 1973, Brian Hesje and Yusuf Karbani’s MBA class threw their caps in the air to celebrate their convocation. In 2008, this same class raised their glasses in commemoration of good memories and their successes during this year’s Homecoming celebration. Former classmates and, today, both chartered accountants, Brian and Yusuf worked together to track down their School of Business peers and organize a special dinner at the Royal Glenora Club. In addition to the graduates, several of the class’s former professors joined in the celebrations, namely: Ross Denham, Denis Goodale, and Dave Jobson. [F](#)



Joining the class from overseas was Albrecht Hallbauer and wife Uschi.

Class of '58 – REFLECTIONS



Front row (L to R) Don Sprague, Stan Sidjak, Bob Pogue, Gary Campbell, and Shirley Ingram

Middle: Dean Mike Percy, Perry Baird, Aube Levine, Don Badger, Dick Feasel, Ken Broadfoot, Georgine Peacock, and Gwen Ash

Back row: Bruce Millar, Graham O'Connor, Crawford Smith and class organizer Ross Denham

“Fifty years ago, the University graduated a group of great young people with then BCom degrees. I was privileged to talk to and greet many of these individuals again during the University’s 100th year celebrations. Here are just a few of my reflections from this reunion.

A particular highlight was meeting fifteen of these graduates, many of their spouses, Dean Percy, his wife Debra, and Jami Drake of the Alberta School of Business. This was during a wonderful evening of dinner and fellowship hosted by the Dean. Another pleasure was speaking by telephone with many of the ‘58 group who could not attend either for health reasons or because of prior commitments.

What an impressive collection of experiences and success stories we shared. Many were retired, but several still applied their skills in the business world. As I talked with them, I reflected that our University days were formative in our successes, and that we owe a real appreciation to the

U and School for providing us with such a background. Although space limitations preclude describing all of the formidable achievements of this class, here is a sampling. For a considerable number of individuals, their BCom was a springboard to top-level national and local positions as chartered accountants and lawyers. Another individual followed a varied career in several fields and became a deputy minister in the Alberta government. O’Connors, a men’s and women’s store of fine clothing in Calgary, is operated by another of our ‘58 colleagues. Further, two other individuals followed careers in leading academic institutions. And for others, Alberta’s oil and manufacturing industries provided satisfying lives and valuable contributions to our province over the past fifty years.

A feature of special interest to me, too, was the geographic reach of the group. Georgine Peacock (Gerald) and Gwen Ash (Grimm) travelled the farthest to join us, hailing from their residences of many years in Austin, Texas, and Gig Harbor Washington, respectively. Another of our colleagues, now a resident in Edmonton, was a business executive in Switzerland for many years. And, although unable to be with us, I had great conversations with former colleagues of the fifties who

now reside in Paradise Valley Arizona, Montreal, Calgary, and Red Deer.

Reunions are a time when we remember. Sadly, we recalled eight of our colleagues who are currently ill or who had died during the passage of fifty years. Happily, though, we could, with good humour, think of the name of our ‘School’ of Commerce and the changes it has endured since ‘our day’. Each change over the years featured the respected word ‘Faculty’. Now, however, the name has returned to being ‘our’ name once again and to the highly prestigious one of ‘School’. Whatever the name, though, it is merely a pseudonym representing the high quality and successes of its graduates over the years.

I enjoyed being a part of this reunion. I wish us all well until our next key year and I know we will continue to express our pride in and support for ‘our’ School and its students of today.”

Ross Denham BCom '58

50s

50s

The 50th Anniversary BCom Class of '58 was hosted by Dean Mike Percy at a special dinner in their honour held at the Union Bank Inn. School of Business Professor Emeritus Ross Denham was the class organizer and did a fantastic job connecting with many of the “golden grads,” even those who weren’t able to attend in person.



Pat and Perry Baird, Gwen Ash, Shirley Ingram and Georgine Peacock

Class of '83 – A Close-KNIT Community

Twenty-five years after graduating with their MBAs, a quintet of alumni shared their variety of experience and inspirational advice to current students when they were back in town to celebrate their silver anniversary. **Mike Broadfoot, Brent Gibson, John Tatlow, Susan Williams, and Frank Hayes** have all pursued different fields, but they shared their enthusiasm with an equal level for the Alberta MBA program. In fact, their camaraderie started in the Dean's Melcor Boardroom before their presentation as shared stories resulted in laughter reverberating through the walls.

"Be really focused on the people aspect of business," advised Mike. "People knit businesses together." Mike has been involved in many start-up or early-stage businesses, helping them grow into successful companies. He is currently a private investor and corporate director for several companies and is chairman of three tech companies. Mike said students should take a wide variety of courses and more than they need because they can always build expertise after graduation.

Before getting his MBA, Brent worked in the oil field where he saw management styles he didn't like. "I thought I could do better so I went for my MBA." The job market in 1983 was less than hot and there was a "wailing wall" of rejection letters before working for the City of Edmonton as a property manager, then Edmonton Telephones, and then as Vice-President of Marketing with Yellow Pages in 1998. Switching gears from big corporation to small business, Brent is now co-owner of Camrose Custom Cabinets, which he describes as a mid-range size business with \$2.5-\$3 million in

revenue. "There's a lot of job satisfaction because employees and customers rely on you. At the end of the day, you've done something. You may not start your career where you thought you would...but you'll be building experience and becoming a better business person," he said.

After getting his MBA, John worked as a shopping centre manager for numerous firms in Edmonton and Calgary, working on commercial real estate transactions from New York to San Francisco and Montreal to Vancouver. Now John is President of his own company, Insight Commercial Tenant Lease Consultants Inc, helping commercial tenants negotiate their leases. "I could see a niche market. It was a scary transition, but I'm happy I did it," he said.

Susan has worked in various departments of the Alberta government since graduation and is now Assistant Deputy Minister for Alberta Health and Wellness. She almost dropped out of the MBA program because her marks were "horrific." But her sister encouraged her and Susan focused on finance and economics because she wasn't strong in those areas. Working on her weaknesses served her well as did recognizing who to surround herself with in business. "Diversity is good. You need to hire different kinds of people because, if you hire like, you get group-think. Learn about people outside of their work." she said.

Frank said his MBA has been extremely valuable as the founder of Stanley Software Finance. "It's renaissance business education. You'll probably have to start off as an expert at something, but you have more flexibility



than other professions." As a finance and banking expert, he said it was only days after starting his own business that he realized sales and marketing "rules the world" because he had to figure out how his customers thought. Frank said careers are not usually straight lines. "If a move will take you closer to where you want, it's worth it. Be prepared for change and for flat spots."

A common thread throughout the hour was the importance of mentorship in their careers. "Have a mentor and be a mentor," said Susan, pointing out that younger generations can teach older people in subjects like technology. Mike advocated using literature as mentorship: "Be a voracious reader of business literature," he said. "Pick a visionary who is looking 25 years away...and, lastly, approach every day with positive energy." **R**

80s

80s

Later that evening – the '83 MBA Class and their guests caught up on all the news during a class reunion dinner held at the Faculty Club. According to organizer John Tatlow, "A great time was had by all!"



'83 BCom grads Dale Belsher, with Maggie Byrt and Class organizer Ted Byrt. Ted is a former BAA Director and he and his wife Maggie run a very busy and successful insurance business in Edmonton.

Class of '88 – VENTURES – Old and New


The MBA class of '88 began their celebration on Saturday evening with an enjoyable dinner where much of the lively conversation surrounded who had “won” the New Ventures business plan competition, which one(s) of their classmates had cracked under pressure, and what the projects even were that they had agonized over/that kept them up all night.

technology commercialization have served many of the class well over the years. **Gary Lang** is now Managing Director for StoneBridge Merchant Capital Corporation, joining his brother Michael's ('81 MBA) company in 1996 after a ten-year banking career. Joining Gary from Calgary were good friends **Rhonda Amundson**, Manager of Capital

his next move in high-technology ventures. Most recently, Terry was COO of Acceleware Corporation of Calgary. Prior to Acceleware, Terry was COO of Plazmic Inc of Toronto and co-founder of AudeSi Technologies of Calgary (acquired by Research in Motion).

The celebration then continued at the home of **David Leeworthy**, the reunion organizer for the weekend. The Edmonton contingent included David, President of First Industries Corporation; **Gerry Fardoe**, Principal with Nichols Applied Management; **Thorsten Duebel**, Director of Planning and Research at Capital Care; **Ellen Nygaard**, who oversees the Expert Panel for Alberta Finance and Enterprise; and **Kurt Schreiner** who is Director of Corporate Planning and Policy Research for Alberta Seniors and Community Support. **Kathleen Frei** drove in from Grande Prairie where she is Director of Workforce Development for Grande Prairie Regional College.

David Van Seters joined the group from Vancouver. As was the case during the program, the environment continues to be top of mind to David. In 1998, David founded SPUD, Small Potatoes Urban Delivery, an organic food delivery service; he continues to be the CEO. Ever the entrepreneur, he has led the company's expansion to Vancouver Island, Calgary, and Seattle. David is now contemplating various mergers and acquisitions.

The night ended with hopes of getting together again soon, at a golf course in Calgary, helping deliver potatoes in Vancouver, or perhaps at the School of Business' upcoming Canadian Business Leader Award where Rhonda's TransCanada colleague, CEO Hal Kvisle, is being honoured. Mark the date – March 4, 2009 – a wonderful occasion for a class reunion from any year! 



Class of '88: Clockwise from top left: David Van Seters, Terry Sydoryk, Steve Stowkowy, Thorsten Duebel, Rhonda Amundson, Kurt Schreiner, Ellen Nygaard, Gary Lang, Kathleen Frei, Dave Leeworthy, Gerry Fardoe, and Tony Morris

It was eventually agreed upon that the innovative long-lasting ceramic saw blade, assuming the teeth would not come flying off, won the competition. Gary Lang remembers the judges' comments very well – “we won because of our market research!” Terry Sydoryk's project was the leading-edge remote facsimile device. The ability to fax in log results from the field was seen to be most visionary for the time!

Lessons learned from New Ventures in entrepreneurship, finance, risk, and

Markets for TransCanada; and **Tony Morris**, a Partner with Macleod Dixon where he specializes in technology development, education law and e-commerce.

Also from Calgary were **Steve Stowkowy**, and his wife **Bonnie**, '89 MBA where Steve is Regional Vice-President with UMA Engineering and has followed Bonnie's lead in serving on the Senate at the University of Calgary. **Terry Sydoryk** resides in near by Cochrane and is presently pondering

90s

90s

The MBA Class of '98, led by organizers Travis Braithwaite and Buffy Lammie, reunited in style at the Sawmill Restaurant in Edmonton on Saturday November 1.

"In ten years, many babies have been born and many careers have taken flight. But statistics galore can't compare to the euphoria of getting together with old friends. The group had a great time reminiscing and – ten years out – can now more fully appreciate that many lessons learned became useful in business and in life. For those who couldn't make it - we missed you. We even thought of a few. Until we meet again. Cheers to the Class of '98."



MBA Class of '98 and friends.



Class organizers Buffy Lammie and Travis Braithwaite and friend



Adding to the festivities was our very own "Balloon Guy", Glen Lavalley, '85 BCom, who entertained the young and young at heart with his fabulous balloon creations. (L to R) Doug Lammie, '01 MBA; Buffy Lammie '98 MBA; Glen and Catherine Vu, '01 BCom.

Centenary Gala Dinner



(l to r) Bill Johnston, Mary Ritchie, '80 BCom; Dean Mike Percy, Debby Carlson, Harold Banister '73 BCom; Linda Banister, '83 BCom, '87 MPM; and Ken and Margaret Myroon, '73 BCom



More than 1800 University of Alberta alumni and their guests celebrated the centenary in style at the 100th Anniversary Gala dinner held at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton on September 20. In addition to the company of many friends, U of A grads enjoyed a fabulous meal and were entertained with a concert by legendary Alberta entertainer Ian Tyson and the spirited musical stylings of Dave

Babcock and the Jump Orchestra. It was a spectacular cap to a weekend filled with countless activities that evoked a great sense of pride in all who attended. A special thank you to all our alumni who joined in the fun, re-connected with classmates, and reconfirmed that much of the rich history of our University is woven with the many stories of the people who have studied there.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Three Business alumni were recognized among the 40 University of Alberta alumni receiving special honours during the University's 100th anniversary festivities.

ALUMNI HONOUR AWARD

Mary Ritchie, '80 BCom, received an Alumni Honour Award recognizing significant contributions over a number of years.

ALUMNI AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Court Carruthers, '93 BCom, received the Alumni Award of Excellence celebrating outstanding recent accomplishments.

ALUMNI CENTENARY AWARD

Harold Banister, '73 BCom, received the inaugural Alumni Centenary Award for Volunteer Service.

The University of Alberta headed to Hong Kong as part of its Centenary celebrations – October 31, 2008


The University of Alberta School of Business is proud of its international reputation and our alumni from all over the world who represent us as ambassadors. In celebration of the University's centenary and in recognition of approximately 4,000 U of A alumni from east and southeast Asia (almost 400 business alumni in Hong Kong), the University held a special international Centenary Celebration on November 1, 2008, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong. The celebration was attended by alumni, students, and parents as well as University and government officials. This event marked ten years since the first Hong Kong convocation in 1998 and Dean Mike Percy welcomed back those who joined him then. He is the only Dean who attended both the 1998 and the 2008 ceremonies. Alumni received a complimentary keepsake gown, hood, and cap to wear at the special graduation ceremony. President Indra Samarasekera and Chancellor Eric Newell shook hands with all alumni crossing the stage.

Business alumni were also invited to a networking reception at the Bankers' Club the evening before. Sixty five people attended this event and enjoyed meeting not only each other but also Alberta Advanced Education and Technology Minister, the Honourable Doug Horner, the U of A Alumni Association President

Jim Hole and his wife Marcia; former Business Advisory Council member Bernie Mah whose daughter Tangie completed her MBA in 2006, and Master of Ceremonies **Trevor Mak, '82 BCom, '84 MBA**, President, University of Alberta Alumni Association Hong Kong whose inimitable style made both the October 31 and the November 1 events most memorable.

To mark the occasion, an international bursary has been established to provide financial support to underprivileged students from East and Southeast Asia attending full-time studies at the U of A.

We were also pleased that a number of young business alumni and business students currently working in Hong Kong attended these events and helped out wherever they could.

A very special thank you to Trevor Mak and Carol Yeung for all their help in making our Business alumni event such a great success. 

"The centenary in Hong Kong was such a great success that everyone enjoyed very much."

Charlie Chau, Managing Director,
Johnson & Co.
Jewelry and Watches, Custom Tailors



Trevor Mak; Jerry Kwan, '64 BCom; and Patricia Chan, '85 BCom

Trevor Mak, '82 BCom, '84 MBA, was the Master of Ceremonies at both the Business Alumni Reception on October 31 as well as the Centenary Gala Celebration on November 1. Trevor Mak, CFA, is Managing Director and Team Head for Citi Private Bank Hong Kong. He is a very active alumnus of the School and is always willing to talk to our students and alumni about opportunities in the world of finance. Trevor visited Canada in the fall and participated in the University of Alberta's Homecoming 2008 celebrations. While in Edmonton, he was a guest speaker for both the current Executive MBA Class and our full-time MBA students. He has recently been appointed President of the Alumni Association's Hong Kong branch, which is the largest U of A international alumni branch. A man of many talents, he showed off his vocal chops by performing a number of songs at the centenary dinner – and wowed the crowd! 



Corrine Calihoo (Convocation Officer); Freddie Yau (Advisor to the HK Alumni Branch), '77 BCom; Elke Christianson, and Eva Ching.



Carol Yeung and Carrie Lam celebrate by tossing their mortar boards.



Outgoing Chancellor Eric Newell, with '08 Bilingual BCom alumna, Taisa Ballantyne, a marketing major who writes: "Networking paid off! Thanks to Dean Percy and Edy Wong, I managed to land myself a job. I am thrilled."

Taisa is working for Mr Thomas Chu as a Project Executive-Commercial & Solutions, Supply Chain Solutions (Asia) Ltd.



Carol Yeung, '05 BCom, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner, and Carrie Lam, '03 BCom



Dean Mike Percy (centre) with a group of the School's Hong Kong based alumni



Charlie Chau; Science Dean Greg Taylor; Business Dean Mike Percy; and Rosanna Chau, '78 BCom; Paul Y ITC Group

Singapore Alumni Reception

– November 6, 2008

Following the centenary celebrations in Hong Kong, Business Dean Mike Percy hosted an event for all U of A Alumni in Singapore on November 6. The reception drew 75 alumni and guests who enjoyed an evening in the historic Arts House - Singapore's first Court House and former Parliament built in 1827. The School of Business currently has nine students on Co-op terms in Singapore, which is another example of the fantastic international opportunities available to students in our programs. [R](#)



U of A alumni enjoy the Singapore reception.



Singapore alumni including (far right) Wee Nee Cheok, '90 BCom; and Chris Tham, '89 BCom



U of A Alumni Affairs Director Susan Peirce with U of A graduates.

20th Annual Business Alumni Dinner

– November 20, 2008

More than 200 alumni, students, faculty, and their guests enjoyed the extended networking reception before the dinner, and the evening’s guest speaker **Dave Collyer, '78 MBA**, who was himself celebrating his 30th anniversary year.

Dave is the new incoming President of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). He joined CAPP in September from Royal Dutch Shell where he was Shell’s Country Chairman for Canada.

Dave’s topic was the “Canadian Upstream Oil and Gas Sector – Opportunities and Challenges.” He began with a look back at how things were in the oil patch in 1978, touched on the many ongoing challenges including politics, demand, supply, pricing, public profile, land reclamation, water use, and emissions, then travelled with the group to 2008 where he ended with the following challenge to the audience:

“In my view, there are a number of areas where the University and alumni can and should play a key role in addressing the challenges that lie ahead, either alone or in partnership with industry or other academic institutions.

These include:

- contributing innovative thinking to public policy development as it pertains to the oil and gas sector;
- ensuring the we have well-trained people to sustain and grow the oil and gas sector;
- taking a leadership role in research in the technical, environmental, socio-economic, and other areas; and
- contributing to communication and education initiatives.

A great example is the U of A’s MBA in Natural Resources and Energy



Tom Scott, Vice-Dean School of Business; guest speaker Dave Collyer, '78 MBA; Dinner Chair Dustin Bateyko, '01 BCom; and BAA President Darryl Lesiuk, '91 BCom, '07 MBA

“A balanced and considered approach to the “3Es” – Energy, Economy, Environment – or what I refer to as the three-legged stool is what is needed. It doesn’t work unless all three components are in place with an eye to the longer term”.

which helps develop our industry’s future leaders by introducing students to the issues and challenges of natural resource development.”

The U of A gave me many of the tools in engineering and business to succeed in an exciting, dynamic industry and helped launch a career that I wouldn’t trade for any other. I’ve had the privilege of working with many tremendous



Morgan Anderson; Zaheen Mohammed '05 BCom; Christie Krasowski; Donna Doerr; and Rachelle Froehler

people; from operating staff in the field to the leaders of companies who are fiercely proud of what they do and strongly committed to ensuring that it gets done right – economically and environmentally. With this commitment and the initiative and innovation that exist in the province, I am convinced that the oil and gas industry will be successful well into the future.” **R**

Marianne Anjaji; Bruce Acton, '89 MBA; David Thompson, Paul Edginton, '06 BCom; and friend



School of Business Professors Ujjayant Chakravorty, Joseph Doucet, and Linda Nostbakken (R) with Robert Page



Jason Proche '03 MBA; Bo Stachniak '98 BCom/'02 MBA; Russ Farmer '04 MBA; Chris Hutchinson '06 MBA; and Kamren Farr '06 MBA

Our thanks to the corporations and individuals who supported the dinner through the purchase of a full or half table and that sponsored tickets for our students to attend the event.

FULL TABLES

- Acton Consulting Ltd.**
- Cushman & Wakefield Edmonton Inc.**
- Darryl Lesiuk**
- Executive Education and Lifelong Learning**
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta**
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP**
- Russell Farmer and Associates Consulting Ltd.**
- Stantec Consulting Ltd.**
- Veres Picton & Co. LLP**


HALF TABLES

- ATB Financial**
- Bennett Jones LLP**
- Canadian Western Bank**
- Maclab Enterprises**
- MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman LLP**



Anthony Lim; Dave Terriff, '75 MBA; and Raj Dhunna

MBA Mentorship Program

The mentorship program got off to a great start this year and has attracted strong alumni participation from the School's graduates. To date this year – there are 35 mentors representing a wide cross section of industries and professions matched up with our MBA Students. If you are interested in volunteering some time to be part of this program, please contact Jami Drake (jami.drake@ualberta.ca) or Heather Christensen (heather.christiansen@ualberta.ca) at the School of Business for more information. 

Special thanks to BAA Directors Cheng Hsin-Chang, '06 MBA; and Chris Grey, '95 MBA; for leading this important program.



Dan Xu and Chris Grey, '95 MBA



Mentors Jay Krushell (l), '95 MBA, and Chris Lavin (r), '98 MBA, with Tamara Korassa

Preservation of the Name Campaign Launched

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY INCLUDES KEY ANNOUNCEMENT



Preserve The Name



A crowd of 200 alumni, students, staff and business people, gathered at Enterprise Square for the School of Business' Report to the Community on September 26 and heard first hand that 70 percent of a \$20-million target has already been raised to permanently retain the name Alberta School of Business. The amount is comparable to what would be required to attach an individual's name to the school and retaining Alberta in the name will help showcase not only the school's reputation but also its location.

Well-known businessman and Chieftain Financial Ltd President Stanley Milner, joined by current and former U of A chancellors Eric Newell (former Syncrude CEO) and Sandy Mactaggart (co-founder of Maclab Enterprises) - all three co-chairs of the "Preserve the Name" campaign - underlined the significance of the

Alberta brand in placing the School among its peers around the world which have taken the names of individual benefactors such as Wharton, Sloan, and Broad.

We thank the founding members who have helped us reach \$14 million. We thank the Business Alumni Association members for their individual \$25 contribution and their challenge to all alumni to participate.

"There are lots of schools with people's names, but no one knows where they are," said Stan Milner. "But you know where Harvard Business School is. And everyone will know where we are."

Dean Mike Percy talked about the school's areas of excellence - in family business, retailing, energy and finance - as integrally tied to the province's success and character, and the importance of retaining the Alberta brand equity.

"These sectors are part of Alberta's innovative history and culture," said Mike. "And as much as the province's history is woven into the school, we see the school's influence very much a part of the fabric of the province. We would love to honour an alumnus, but we also love the Alberta name. It's part of who we are."

Mike also gave an overview of some of the school's key achievements in the last year, the sense of momentum around it, and his vision for the future.

The details are outlined in the annual review, **Taking Stock**, handed out at the event and available online at www.business.ualberta.ca.

LEADERS
IN
RETAILING



Kyle Murray
Associate Professor and Director,
School of Retailing

BEHIND EVERY LEADING ECONOMY,
THERE IS A LEADING BUSINESS SCHOOL.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
SCHOOL of BUSINESS

LEADERS
IN
INNOVATION



Peter Jaskiewicz
Assistant Professor, Strategic Management
and Organization

BEHIND EVERY LEADING ECONOMY,
THERE IS A LEADING BUSINESS SCHOOL.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
SCHOOL of BUSINESS

LEADERS
IN
ENERGY



Ujjayant Chakravorty
Professor, School of Business and the
Department of Economics

BEHIND EVERY LEADING ECONOMY,
THERE IS A LEADING BUSINESS SCHOOL.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
SCHOOL of BUSINESS

LEADERS
IN
FINANCE



Ying Duan
Assistant Professor, Finance and
Management Science

BEHIND EVERY LEADING ECONOMY,
THERE IS A LEADING BUSINESS SCHOOL.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
SCHOOL of BUSINESS

Financial Times: of London
2008 Global Rankings:

- **#1** in Western Canada and **#2** nationwide of the joint Executive MBA program with the University of Calgary
- **#88** internationally, **#4** in Canada, and **#1** in the West in reference to the MBA program, a best ever international ranking
- **#37** internationally and **#3** in Canada for research output.



"This school is going from good to great, to quote one of the best business books," said **Ralph Young, 73 BCom**, President and CEO of Melcor Developments Ltd., talking about the impact the U of A School of Business has had on his career and where he sees its future.

Ralph Young, CEO of Melcor Developments Ltd. speaking at the 2008 Report to the Community.

2009 CANADIAN
BUSINESS LEADER
AWARD DINNER



The Alberta School of Business
and our Business
Advisory Council present

HAL KVISLE
PRESIDENT & CEO
TRANSCANADA CORPORATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009
SHAW CONFERENCE
CENTRE, EDMONTON

RECEPTION - 5:15 PM
DINNER - 6:30 PM

For table purchase and student
ticket sponsorship please contact
susan.robertson@ualberta.ca

Neil Manning: Success and SIGNIFICANCE

They say that no matter where you go, your roots define part of who you are and how you relate to the world. In Neil Manning's case, he isn't shy at all about telling people where his roots are from. "Even though I've lived in Ontario for 20 some years in total, I still consider Edmonton and Alberta my home." And because of those roots, the experiences at University and, in particular, with his family business, Neil has come full circle in supporting those roots.

Neil Manning is the President and CEO of Wajax Income Fund, listed on the TSX and one of Canada's largest industrial distribution and service companies with revenues of \$1.2 billion. Wajax has three divisions with over 100 branches and over 2,600 employees across Canada. However, Neil got his first taste of running a business many years before by operating his family's business Manco Industrial Supplies, a construction equipment replacement parts business in Edmonton.

Neil came by entrepreneurship honestly: his father started his own business at 53 years old, using pension money to fund a change in opportunity. It's ironic, but, while in school Neil was actually counselled by his dad to stay away from small business.

Neil Manning is the President and CEO of Wajax Income Fund

"If this scholarship can encourage some young woman or man to ask themselves that "WHY NOT?" question, then I know I've helped someone on their own road to adventure and success."





After graduating in 1967, Neil began a career at Xerox and, after two years, they supported his return to the U of A to take his MBA as he felt he required additional education to progress to more senior levels in the organization. He returned to Xerox for six years in roles of increasing responsibility and, while he realized that working in that environment had its positives, he wanted something different. At that time, his father wanted to retire and sell the business and Neil suggested that he purchase it.

“Dad’s first reaction was luke-warm at best. He was still pretty negative about the potential risks for me in a small business and said he was committed to offer the business to the employees first.” Only after the employees turned him down did his dad reluctantly consider Neil as a potential buyer. “At that time, it was a very small business with revenues of about \$1 million a year and had ten employees. I was in Toronto, with Xerox at that time and, together with my wife Susan, we thought it was a risk, but WHY NOT take a chance on something that could have tremendous upside and also take us back home?”

Neil admits he knew very little about small business at that time but, in due course, he learned about running the business from the intricacies of banking and financing to appreciating succession issues with family members. In 1990, the company was sold to a firm in Toronto and Neil and Susan moved east again. He subsequently became President of the parent company.

“Through out my career, I have acquired, built up, and sold four different small businesses. Running a small business is very challenging as you do not have the size to enable you to employ senior staff in critical roles like finance and accounting. You are very conscious of the economic swings that may affect your profitability, cash flow, and your debt load. But owning businesses in Alberta over 30 years has also shown me how to be prepared for opportunities in market upturns too. I think those past lessons have made Alberta entrepreneurs and businesses more nimble as a result.”

“I also think the experience of creating and growing small businesses has been a real benefit in my current role. Through

my background, I bring a slightly different perspective to the leadership team and the boardroom in that I have seen business from both the ‘big picture’ public side and the small business ‘the devil is in the details’ side.”

Although, Neil has been with Wajax for the past six years and his focus has been the income fund, he has continued to have an interest in small business.

The experiences at school and with the family business also had a strong impact. In hearing about the 100th year anniversary of the University of Alberta, Neil wanted to look at giving back to his alma mater in some way. “I always felt I had an obligation to the business school for the impact it had on my career.” After meeting with Dean Mike Percy, he was especially impressed with the work the Alberta School of Business was doing with family business, entrepreneurship, and family enterprise. He felt rather than giving to bricks and mortar, he could create a scholarship in family enterprise in the undergraduate program to help provide some incentive to students who come from family-business background or have an interest in starting their own venture. “I was really impressed to hear that the Alberta School of Business has the #1 research team in the world for family enterprise. I am very pleased I can help encourage future students to take advantage of the globally-recognized expertise that resides in their own backyard.”

“Our family ties to the U of A are pretty strong; my wife Susan also graduated from the U of A as well as my sister and my mom was active in the IODE, raising funds for student scholarships and was a member of the U of A Senate.”

In his own way, Neil is just as engaged as ever in the tradition of small business. “If this scholarship can encourage some young woman or man to ask themselves that “WHY NOT?” question then I know I’ve helped someone on their own road to adventure and success.”

Account for your style!

HOW BLU'S HELPED TRANSFORM THREE ACCOUNTING STUDENTS INTO DAZZLING CAREER WOMEN READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD...

Come graduation, business students want to dress for success, which is why Blu's Women's Wear and the Chartered Accountants of Alberta teamed up to select three University of Alberta fourth-year accounting majors for makeovers and feature the young number crunchers in an advertising campaign for the clothier.



“A fashion sense is important because before, you speak, whether you like it or not, people make a judgment by what you're wearing,” said **Elisa Solbak**, one of the volunteer models. “How you carry yourself and what you wear greatly impacts the first impressions in interviews and business meetings.”

The CA career path has been Elisa's ultimate career goal for a long time. “I chose to study accounting because I have always been a numbers person. I also see so many successful business people who have their designations and that gives me confidence in knowing I will be well prepared when I am out in the working world.”

Elisa is packing in as many academic pursuits as possible including participating in the JDC West 2009 Business Competition hosted by the school in January and studying at

Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien in Vienna, Austria, for the summer of 2009.

She may have her nose in the books or her fingers on the keyboard most of the time, but Elisa still found time to coach girls' hockey in early 2008 and was captain of her soccer team, the Lady Rangers. Soccer has been near and dear to her heart for many years, earning her the Alberta College's Athletic Conference Award for 2006-07.

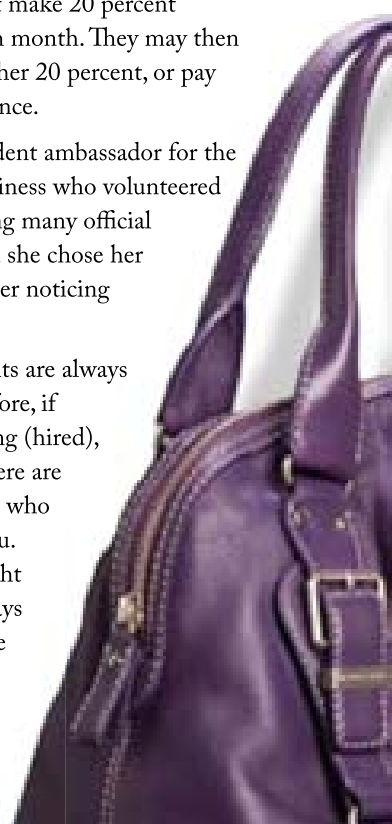
Elisa noted that, as an athlete, she loves wearing comfortable sportswear, but making the transition to the business world will “suit” her just fine.

As a participant in the advertising campaign for Blu's, Elisa was teamed up with **Alda Kwan** and **Sarah Dornstauder**. The campaign shows career women how to build complete outfits and look polished with a

minimum of time and effort. Using an interest-free credit of up to \$2,500, shoppers must make 20 percent payments each month. They may then purchase another 20 percent, or pay down the balance.

Alda, a student ambassador for the School of Business who volunteered her time during many official functions, said she chose her career field after noticing the demand.

“Accountants are always needed, therefore, if you're not being (hired), that means there are a lot of people who can replace you. Giving the right impression plays a big role since



you want to show how different and unique you are and what you can offer the firm,” said Alda.

While she is an accomplished piano player and wields a badminton racquet in the competitive ranks, winning the Alberta Schools Athletic Association 2003 Doubles Gold, her next major accomplishment will be convocating from the School of Business.

She added that Blu’s program would interest her when she graduates because career clothes will make her feel knowledgeable and strong. “I want to portray the real me ...without being over the top.”

All three women said they had a blast during the fashion shoot. “It was a lot of fun and I would be lying if I said I didn’t enjoy the attention,” said Sarah, who was also a student ambassador for the School.

She will officially begin work towards her CA status in September 2010. “I’m very excited for the experience. As much as I look forward to obtaining my designation, I look forward to the journey towards it. I have been able to learn many skills from the people I’ve worked with, both technical and non-technical,” said Sarah.

Both she and Alda helped organize volunteer tax clinics for underprivileged families and students through the Accounting Club.

“I know that these experiences will help shape my future career so I look forward to experiencing more defining situations.” Some of Sarah’s experience came from working for Deloitte & Touche in the spring and summer of 2008, rotating through their audit, consulting, tax, and financial advisory departments.

Sarah started off as a marketing major, but her first-year



“How you carry yourself and what you wear greatly impacts the **first impressions in interviews** and business meetings.”


Elisa Solbak

Elisa Solbak, Alda Kwan, and Sarah Dornstauder

accounting professor converted her. “I was fairly certain I wanted to work towards my CA and that was solidified after my positive internship experience at a firm. I would one day love to own my own business...I’m just not exactly sure what that is yet.”

Alda said she sought out accounting because of the need in the profession no matter what the economic climate is like. “And I want to be part of the big picture by contributing to society,” she said. “I’m going to work towards my CA designation after I graduate because I believe it is very prestigious and opens up a lot of opportunity in the world.”

Aside from the status the designation holds, Alda said it would allow her to one day be a partner in an accounting firm and perhaps lead to an MBA, which would fit her “high energy 24/7” personality.

With their Bachelor of Commerce degrees and a sense of fashion to carry them into the work world, these future graduates will be hitting their career stride in style. 

Student Ambassadors make School of Business LOOK GOOD

Student Ambassadors are third and fourth-year undergraduate students selected to represent the School at special events and participate in ongoing donor, alumni and other external relations programs as well as student recruitment activities.

The volunteer Student Ambassadors represent various majors and are involved in a diverse number of student clubs and community activities.

The Ambassadors benefit from their service by meeting alumni and members of the Edmonton and Canadian business community at special events and other functions.

Look for our ambassadors at the School’s signature event – the Canadian Business Leader Award Dinner on March 4, 2009 (see page 23). 

To Tacloban, With Love

Five of our students reached out with helping hearts and hands in the summer of 2008 to impoverished street children in the Philippines.

Joel Elford, Lindsay Hornland, Kieran Ryan, Marney Beliveau and Elyce Burek travelled to the city of Tacloban where they worked with orphans, street children, and families in poverty through Project Streetlight.

They had previously raised \$7,000 and brought eight laptop computers to the shelter. Using a community based approach, Streetlight focuses on providing basic necessities, keeping children in school, and reintegrating children back into a family.

The students have since campaigned for Streetlight on campus, raising awareness, funds and student support for the initiative. One of fundraisers was a private, black and white semi-formal dinner and comedy show which raised more than \$2,000

Organized as one of two event challenges posed to the cohort students throughout the year, the second group of students will have an opportunity to prepare a similar event in the second semester. It is events such as this that give students new to the school the opportunity to take an early leadership role and develop skills that might not be taught in the classroom. **R**



ATT 99228 (Tacloban Streetlight): Joel Elford in front demonstrating typing skills, Brock Paterson in background.

Cream Rises to the Top in Texas

Against a bigger and better field of competition, our students still hit the top four at the invitation-only 2008 McCombs International Business Challenge October 29-November 1 in Austin, Texas.

“This year there were 24 schools, compared to last year when there were 20 schools,” said **Sean Collins**, one of the four U of A School of Business students on the team, which included **Paul Natland, Tyler Dahlseide, and Ricky Soni** plus academic advisor **Russ Farmer**.

They beat out University of Southern California, University of California Berkeley, Simon Fraser, and University of British Columbia to make it to the finals. The other Canadian universities invited were Concordia, Queen's, Toronto, and Western Ontario.

Having only 60 hours to prepare a strategy for Dell to increase personal computer sales in emerging markets, the team came up with a strategy to focus on experiential marketing through public trials, athlete endorsement and education about the potential of computers. **R**

Alberta Police Forces kick off provincial marketing program with a twist



Police Competition: Edmonton Police Chief Mike Boyd met with U of A marketing students September 29 during the launch of the Recruiting Alberta Police initiative.

Police agencies from across the province joined forces this fall to unveil a dynamic new recruiting initiative with post-secondary institutes.

The Recruiting Alberta Police (RAP) program has Calgary Police, Edmonton Police and the RCMP forces engaging marketing students at the U of A School of Business, University of Calgary,

Grant MacEwan, NAIT, SAIT, and Lethbridge College secondary students. Their mission: to develop a creative campaign to encourage Alberta's 18 to 30-year-olds to consider careers in policing.

The 21 U of A marketing students enrolled in the competition also get three credits because it was run as a Fall 2008 course. **R**



McCombs International Business Challenge Conference Chair Karim Hemani, U of A Business students Sean Collins, Paul Natland, Ricky Soni, and Tyler Dahlseide, and McCombs Professor John Doggett (Competition Head Judge)

Students Launch Travel Program

The U of A Business Exchange Association launched the Travel Award Program this fall, the first of its kind in Canada managed by students.

The program gives each student studying abroad \$1,000 to cover expenses for their exchange. This augments funding for exchanges facilitated by the School of Business International Office and further encourages business students to pursue international study.

The first awards to 35 students travelling on exchanges for the 2009 winter semester were handed out November 14 at the Winspear Centre during a 'Bon Voyage' lunch ceremony where they also connected with the

program's partners. They include the Alberta School of Business, Business Students Association, Certified Management Accountants of Alberta and Comco Pipe and Supply Company.

Approximately 65 students from the School of Business participate on a formal international exchange program each year, roughly one-fourth of all University of Alberta students studying abroad. U of A Business students have studied at 23 universities around the globe, including those in Thailand, France, Vienna, China and India. [R](#)

Etiquette Tips from the Pros



Top of Class: (Left to Right) BCom students Martin Fung, Emily Kwok, Jacinta Liu and Lorna Tu brushed up on their table manners at the Top of Class Business Etiquette Dinner November 19.

A four-course dinner for 150 students on November 19 showed Business students how to manage cutlery and manners at the same time.

Hosted by the School of Business Cooperative Education Students' Association, the dinner at the Westin featured coaching from Terry Pithers from Style for Success, an image and

etiquette expert who covers topics such as attire, body language and business dining.

Students also got to network with sponsoring partners Certified General Accountants Association of Alberta, Ernst & Young, the Running Room, PCL Construction Leaders and Deloitte. [R](#)

Chillin' for Charity Raises Cold Cash for United Way

Business students spearheaded the third annual Chillin' For Charity Polar Bear Swim November 21, raising just over \$11,000.

About 100 people jumped into a frigid pool for the U of A, including once again our Dean Mike Percy, bringing the total raised by the event to \$71,000 in its history, with all the funds going to the United Way.

Chillin' for Charity is organized solely by a group of Business students as part of an academic case competition called 'Jeux du Commerce (JDC) West'. This competition spans across Western Canada at 13 different universities, each of which hosted their own Chillin for Charity event throughout November. This is the first time all the schools are participating in the daring cold dip for dollars. [R](#)



Chillin' For Charity: School of Business students braved chilly waters to raise money for United Way November 21.

The Business of SHOW Business

JAE LAN PETRIE

When Jaelan Petrie, '08 MBA, was training as an actor at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles in the late 1990s, no crystal ball would show him getting a business degree in the next decade.

"You can't make films without money. That's why they call it show business," he said from his current home in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Cardston, Alberta native was one of 5,000 people to audition using monologues, cold readings, acting and voice tests for the acclaimed dramatic school, and one of only 100 who get in every year. He then earned his undergraduate degree in theatre study at Brigham Young University in Utah in 2002 while working in independent films during the summers.

After graduating, Jaelan journeyed to England, "the mecca of theatre," where he played the lead in *Piccadilly Cowboy*, a fish-out-of-water movie where his character must find a husband for the older sister of the woman he wants to marry before her grandfather will permit the younger couple's nuptials to occur.



"I decided to move behind the camera and it blossomed to where I produced a number of small films," he said.

Following that, he moved to Denmark where Jaelan produced a couple of documentaries and wrote and directed a series of commercials for the country's family channel.

In 2005, he returned to England to work as a production manager for Pinewood Studios, the largest studio outside of Hollywood and the company behind the James Bond franchise. "Behind the camera, I realized there are a lot of skills in distribution, marketing, and accounting – things I didn't know about the business side.



Jaelan on the set of "Anxiously Engaged" released in London, England in 2007. "I had to miss ten days of school for the premiere!"

I knew I had a good creative side and I knew, if I wanted to go further, I needed more business background."

Around that time, he came to Edmonton for a friend's wedding and dropped into the U of A School of Business because he'd heard it had a good program. "I met with former Associate Dean of the MBA Programs Doug Olsen. He interviewed me and said he really wanted me to apply. When he mentioned that I could do a dual degree with EDHEC University in France, that was incredible because of my previous work in Europe. I applied right on the deadline."

The whirlwind of moving and settling in was soon followed by business classes that he was ill prepared for. "I had a statistics class, and 20 minutes in, I raised my hand and said, 'I don't understand a word you're saying.' Thankfully, the professor set up outside help classes for several of us," he said. "That first semester was so hard, but it was exciting."

"Needless to say, if I can get through an MBA, anyone can," said Jaelan, who convocated with a MBA in International Business from the U of A. But his education is continuing as he completes his thesis on European Union film distribution for his MSc in Marketing Management from EDHEC for graduation in February 2009.

"I went to the Cannes Film Festival and realized the audiences don't care where the funding comes for a film, but distributors do," he explained about his thesis choice. "They'd rather distribute US films than European films. Hopefully, this study will help with policy making," said Jaelan.

He said other people in the arts should look at getting more business education too. "If you have artistic flair and business acumen, then you can have a thriving career. An MBA leads you to other avenues you hadn't thought of and into business areas that are stable."

Jaelan credits the U of A MBA program for assistance in helping him complete this part of his dual degree.

"It's difficult but you hang on for dear life and the U of A will wrap their arms around you and carry you up the mountain."



Newly married Jaelan and his wife Leslie Holt.

In the News – Lianne Lefsrud

Edmonton Journal
September 14

Business PhD student Lianne Lefsrud holds a masters degree in civil and environmental engineering. She is looking specifically at promoting environmentalism in the oil and gas industry. "I'm doing research in terms of what makes companies more likely to adopt environmental initiatives ... and what influences their decisions," Lianne says. "I'm very interested in how we can change companies from within in terms of managing their impacts on the environment."



Like many grad students Lianne is passionate about her work. She grew up in Viking, Alta., where her father practised environmentally friendly farming years before it was fashionable. "My father really instilled in me sense of the land and the fact that we are only caretakers of this land," Lianne says.

After graduating as an engineer she worked for various companies. "I think if you're going to change the behaviour of companies you need to understand the political and the social and the economic drivers of decisions," Lianne says of her decision to enrol in the School of Business.

The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina is a classic example of what can happen if crucial information is not communicated properly, says Lianne. "They knew that the levees would not withstand a hurricane greater than a Category Four and the engineers tried to communicate that... And they couldn't communicate to the decision-makers in a way that they understood. "And that horrified me that, how can you make sure that those decisions are being made, they're being communicated? "So that's what motivates me."

The business school's reputation cemented Lianne's decision to enrol. "The School of Business is ranked 37th in the world amongst publicly funded universities for research ... it's one of the best of the best, really."


2008 Gay and Ralph Young Internal Case Competition: STRATEGIZING LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

The 2008 Gay and Ralph Young Internal Case Competition, held October 17, was the largest and most successful yet with 14 teams competing for generous cash prizes donated by **Ralph Young**, '73 BCom and his wife **Gay**.

This year's test case had teams creating a strategic plan for Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google.com who aims to address the global challenges of emerging diseases, climate change, and poverty. Teams needed to propose strategies and tactics for making the activities of Google.org sustainable, both socially and financially over the long term.

After a long day of intense competition with 14 incredible presentations and three

rounds of judging, the team of **Lauren Aebig, Rick Dowell, Chris Lynch, and Adrienne Stewart** took home the first place finish. The runners up were a team composed entirely of students from the first year class, competing in their first case competition: **Raj Dhunna, Vijay Kaul, Derik Lal, and Sameer Premji**. A cocktail reception followed the final round of the competition, which was attended by judges, alumni, and students.

Based on the great success of the 2008 competition, and student interest in honing their case analysis skills, a second internal case competition is being planned for February 7, 2009. 

Breaking New Ground: NEW! FINANCE SPECIALIZATION


Full 2008 marked the breaking of new ground for University of Alberta MBA case competition teams as our program was invited to the prestigious Financial Executives International (FEI)

The FEI team was coached by Dr. Amit Monga, who has led the creation of the new MBA specialization in finance. Amit, Executive Professor of Finance, has previously worked as an investment banker and venture capitalist. He is an active angel investor and advisor to public and private companies on capital market positioning.

For more information on the new MBA specialization in Finance, please contact mba@ualberta.ca.

case competition and the TATA-Schulich Cup case competition.

The FEI competition was held at the Rotman School of Management in Toronto, and the University of Alberta was represented by the team of **Rick Dowell, Stephanie Minnema, Joel Natrass, and Camron Rahmanian**.

The TATA-Schulich Cup competition was held at the Schulich School of Business, and our program was represented by the team of **Sophie Genty, Shelby Haque, Leslie Moulson, and Sameer Premji**. The competitions were held in mid-November and were attended by Canada's leading MBA programs. Both teams performed strongly and have set the groundwork for future invitations to these high-profile events. 

MBA FORUMS

September 9 – Dennis Butler, VP, Workplace Solutions Liz Claiborne, Inc.

September 19 – MBA Class of '83 Panel (see page 15)

September 26 – **Deb Gordon, '00 MBA**, VP and COO, University of Alberta Hospital

October 2 – Roger Palmer, Interim Dean, School of Public Health, U of A

October 17 – **Grant Devine, '84 MBA**, UK Financial Services Authority, London

November 4 – Adam Kahane, Author, *Solving Tough Problems*, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Nelson Mandela said: "this breakthrough book addresses the central challenge of our time: finding a way to work together to solve the problems we have created."



November 19 – Anthony Gussin, Director, Business Development, Nytrick Inc., Toronto

November 20 – Robert Page, Chair, National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, Calgary

November 27 – Ruth Kelly, Publisher, Venture Publishing

December 11 – Eric Rosenfeld, President and CEO, Crescendo Partners, LP, a New York-based investment firm

MBA INFO SESSIONS

January 20, February 12, March 3

Recommend our programs – part time, full time, EMBA – to a colleague or friend!

DETAILS at www.mba.net

The Sustainable Advantage: NET IMPACT 2008

The University of Alberta chapter of Net Impact is active and growing, by building on the momentum imparted by a visit from *New York Times* bestselling author and Net Impact Co-founder **Dr. Mark Albion** in March 2008. Net Impact is an international network of over 15,000 MBA students and professionals focused on making a positive economic, social, and environmental impact through responsible business practices. Our Net Impact chapter, led this year by

Financial Executives International Case Competition – Toronto



co-chairs **Jessica Murray** and **Rick Dowell**, has grown to over 20 students, all of whom are taking on projects and competitions to build and promote the Net Impact philosophy.

The premiere Net Impact event is the Net Impact North America Conference. This year, the conference theme was “The Sustainable Advantage: Creating Social and Environmental Value” and it was held at the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from November 13-15, 2008. The University of Alberta was represented at the conference by eight Net Impact members who took in a wide selection of talks, breakout sessions, and networking events. Highlights of the conference included keynotes from **John F. Brock**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc, and **Matt Kistler**, Senior Vice President of Sustainability at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. 

Net Impact Conference – Wharton School of Business – Philadelphia



Congratulations to the following students who successfully defended their theses:

Mike Annett

“Disability Management in Organizations: Antecedents and Consequences of Programs and Manager Behaviours.”

Mike’s supervisor was Professor Ian Gellatly.

Yongfu He

“Essays on Consumer Learning and Jump Bidding Behavior in Online Auctions.”

Yongfu’s supervisor was Peter Popkowski-Leszczyc.

Kenton Hoyem

“Three Essays in Finance.”

Kenton’s supervisors were Professors Randall Morck and Jung-Wook Kim.

Sunyoung Kim

“Three Essays on Financial Accounting – Empirical Studies.”

Sunyoung’s supervisor was Professor Jason Lee.

Run Hong Niu (Annie)

“Three Essays on Joint Decisions in Business” on June 2, 2008.

Annie’s supervisors were Professors Armann Ingolfsson and Tarja Joro.

Dominic Thomas

“The Influence of Costs, Rewards and Social Inertia on Household Evaluation of E-Services.”

Dominic’s supervisor was Professor Adam Finn.

Saif Ullah

“Three Essays on the Role of Information and Information Intermediaries on Security Price.”

Saif’s co-supervisors were Professors Barry Scholnick and Nadia Massoud.



“Pages in Time” is dedicated to sharing the history of the School of Business and is named in honour of Robert Page, one of our first three graduates.

BOOK REVIEW

Stampede

– THE RISE OF THE WEST AND CANADA’S NEW POWER ELITE

GORDON PITTS

My first introduction to *Globe and Mail* journalist Gordon Pitts was three years ago after just a few months on the job overseeing communications for the School of Business.

When reporting on the status of global and Canadian MBA programs by the highly anticipated *Financial Times of London* rankings, the article mixed up the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary rankings giving the U of C credit for the higher U of A one. When “demanding” a retraction, I vividly remember the response. “Of course I know the U of A is in Edmonton” said Gordon. “At least we didn’t get Schulich and Ivey mixed up.” I was even more annoyed, but it was also the beginning of many great ongoing East/West conversations.

Gordon Pitts is a bestselling author, public speaker, and senior writer for the *Globe and Mail’s Report on Business* focusing on management, entrepreneurship, and family business. In 1989, he was a press fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge University, during which time he wrote his first book, *Storming the Fortress*, a finalist for the National Business Book Award in 1990. He has also been a NBBA finalist for his three subsequent books: *In the Blood: Battles to Success in Canada’s Family Business*; *Kings of Convergence: The Fight*

for *Control of Canada’s Media*; and *The Godfathers: Lessons from the Atlantic Business Elite*. To complete his book résumé, it was definitely time to come west.

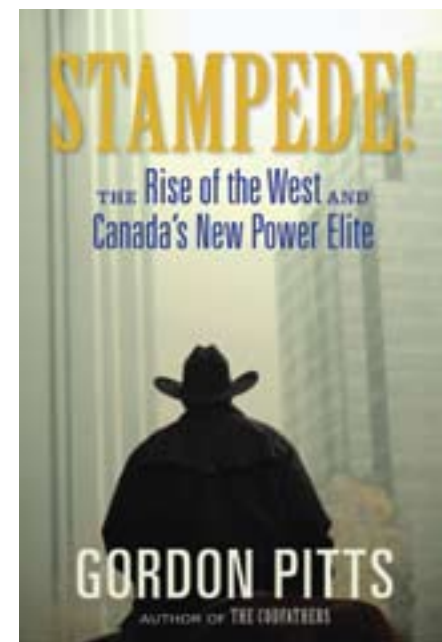
Two years ago, Gordon Pitts accepted the invitation of the School of Business’ Alberta Business Family Institute as a two-month Writer-in-Residence. Gordon was now working on his next book on the perceived power shift in Canada from the east to the west – business leadership, corporate clout, political influence, and population shift - and welcomed the opportunity to research the topic in the heart (and soul) of the new West.

While with us, Gordon immersed himself in all things Alberta. He attended classes, special events, lectured, met with our alumni and friends at their businesses, enjoyed coffee and beer at the Sugarbowl, and frequent visits to nearby Dadeos for the best Cajun food in the West, travelled throughout the province and western Canada, all the while quietly observing, carefully probing – always searching for that elusive East/West balance.

So many names in the book will be familiar to alumni and friends of the School. At times, I felt I was reading a review of the sway of Canadian Business Leader Award winners over the years - Rick George, Stan Milner, Gwyn Morgan, Eric Newell, Jimmy Pattison, JR Shaw, and Bob Stollery. **Dick Haskayne**, ’56 BCom, is referred to

as the Dean of the oilpatch and the quiet influence of **Tim Melton**, ’69 BCom, and **John Ferguson**, ’64 BCom, is noted. **BAC Chairman Guy Turcotte**, ’76 MBA, “has been on the ground floor of every big idea in the oil patch for the past twenty-five years.” Personal interviews and taking the time to listen, helps provide the unique insight Gordon gleans.

And while not always being kind in describing Edmonton, and our sunny skies and dispositions, as anything but cold weather wise, he does warmly refer



A compelling read – by a man who cares about conversation, cares about the written word, and cares about Canada.



to the U of A, at the cusp of the river valley, as the City's jewel and gives us the cultural nod over Calgary. He also discusses how Edmonton and Calgary are by definition very different places which hamper the West's rise. An entire chapter is allocated to the U of A and the importance of higher education

referred to as *Indira's Dream: Revolution on the river valley* where he also notes the exceptional leadership of the Alberta School of Business over the years.

Building universities of excellence is one of his closing eleven proposals for the future; the (re) branding of Alberta the Province is another. Branding the University and the Province means branding our stars, and no star shines brighter perhaps than Alberta Business School Professor Randall Morck who he describes as a "global finance expert, academic rainmaker, the intellectual imp of the West – no academe in Canada has a broader academic wingspan – one of the smartest business minds in Canada."

But despite the focus on Canada's "new power elite," it is his poignant conversations with our Saskatchewan neighbours and "bosses" and Newfoundland's sons and daughters that provide essential balance to the research. A favourite portion includes his conversations with Brandon Cheeseman, a young Newfoundland lad working in Fort McMurray, followed up with concerns shared by Brandon's Mom and Dad in their cozy Newfoundland kitchen. In exploring the West, Gordon deftly weaves in that you have to try to understand how the rest of Canada is moving with or against the western flow.

When visiting the Business School in November, Gordon spoke to the EMBA students on his new book and, as coincidence would have it, the book was also the closing subject across the hall where an Alberta government deputy minister was a guest speaker in the School's Executive Education offerings. In closing his session, without knowledge of Gordon's visit, the book was held up as a "must read" – and that 40 copies had been purchased for colleagues in government.

Stampede – a compelling read – by a man who cares about conversation, cares about the written word, and cares about Canada. **R**

Come out and hear Gordon Pitts speak at the Eric Geddes Lectures in Edmonton and Calgary.

January 29 (Calgary) / January 30 (Edmonton)

Topic: "Money or Mud: Alberta's Business Culture in Boom and Bust"

8:00 am at the Chamber of Commerce (Calgary)

8:00 am at the Royal Glenora Club (Edmonton)

For information email jkokic@ualberta.ca

Chronicle of Commerce

"Bill Preshing's *A Chronicle Of Commerce* is the story of the first 90 years of the University of Alberta School of Business.

It is an amazing story. The School's history mirrors and echoes the Province of Alberta's. Like the Province, the School was built with muscle, grit, and intelligent leverage of available resources by gifted, patient men and women. Their vision of excellence, and their ability to see far over both the academic and commercial horizon has produced a world-class Business school.

The Alberta School, today, is a focal point for internationally-recognized research and top-quality teaching.

Bill Preshing has gathered, tallied, and explained. His book, as he says, is a starting point.

It is an indispensable resource for anyone who seeks to better understand how the University of Alberta School of Business, indeed the U of A itself, got here ... from there." **R**

– Rod Ziegler, U of A alumnus and former veteran columnist with *the Edmonton Journal*



Professor Emeritus and Author, Bill Preshing at his book launch during Reunion Week-end.

Copies of "A Chronicle of Commerce" are available for purchase, at a special alumni price, from the External Relations office. Please refer to page 47 for contact information.

CLASSNOTES

'40s

'42 **John Denholm, BCom**, of Calgary, Alberta, has been attending all the Eric Geddes Lectures. John writes: "Enjoyed the lecture on June 19 in spite of having to set the alarm to 5:15 am, in order to catch Light Rail Transit to downtown Calgary at 6:15 am. Never knew there were so many people walking around downtown Calgary at that hour!

Emcee, Tom Scott, Vice Dean of the School of Business, made appropriate mention of **Eric Geddes, '47 BCom, CA**, whom I knew as I did also his first wife Frances. I renewed acquaintances at the breakfast with the speaker, Harry Roberts, who regaled 100 or so present with reminiscences of his time with Dome Petroleum. I then had a brief visit with **Dick Haskayne, '56 BCom**, who also worked at Dome. I told Harry Roberts that he should write a book of his memoirs." John also attended the annual Stampede Breakfast at

Ceili's in Calgary and the School of Business Open House and the Centenary Homecoming Gala dinner in September in Edmonton.

'50s

'57 **Harry Schaefer, BCom**, and **Dick Haskayne, '56 BCom**, both from Calgary, Alberta, attended the School of Business Open House and the Centenary Homecoming Gala

dinner in September. Both Dick and Harry were also anxious to pick up their copies of Professor Emeritus Bill Preshing's *A Chronicle of Commerce: A History of the School of Business at the University of Alberta*, Dick's own book, *Northern Tigers: Building Ethical Canadian Corporate Champions*, for which the School hosted a book signing last year, has just been released in paperback.

'60s

'64 **Leo Jacques, BCom**, of Kelowna, British Columbia, retired after 35 years of teaching business education. He was head of the College of Commerce and Business Department in Kampala, Uganda in 1971-72 (under former president and dictator Idi Amin). He was also treasurer of the Writers Guild of Alberta (WGA) for five years while running the WGA's Red Deer office for two years. As a horse racing historian, Leo has written 14 books including, *Joey: Calgary's Horse and Other Hall of Famers and Call to the Post: Johnny Longden's Glories and Goofs*. His wife Sue was a financial worker at Red Deer College and earned her accounting specialist certificate there. Leo and Sue have two children and four grandchildren. "We live in a gated community in Kelowna and enjoy life and walking our mini-schnauzer Minnie." released in paperback.

'65 **Gordon Elliott, BCom**, of Edmonton, Alberta, writes: "After I graduated from Commerce and Business Administration in 1965, I took two years of education and then taught in the Alberta college system for about 35 years. Myrna, my wife, and I have retired and moved back to the city."

'69 **Hugo Idler, MBA**, of Toronto, Ontario is enjoying his role as the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for NetConnect Americas Inc. NetConnect pioneered the online conferencing business in the Nordic Region and, today, it continues to

LEADING ALUMNI

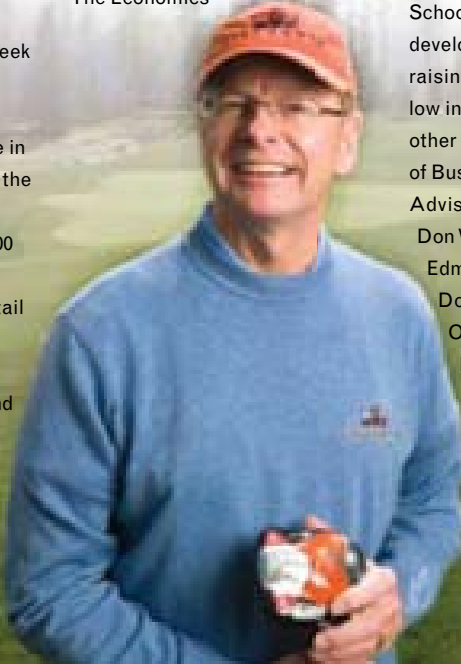
Alberta Venture

– Alberta's 50 Most Influential

Guy Turcotte, '76 MBA, was included in this influential list although not as an energy leader but rather as a property developer. "Add another jewel to Guy Turcotte's crown of picturesque mountain properties. In April, the former Chair of Western Oilsands, and now the Chair, President and CEO of Calgary-based Stone Creek Resorts unveiled his company's plans for a \$1.5-billion resort village in Canmore. Three years in the making, *The Village at Silvertip* will feature 1,300 accommodation units, 100,000 square feet of retail space, about a dozen restaurants, destination spa, and a conference and learning centre spread out over 60 acres." Guy, who is the Chair of the School's Business Advisory Council, generously hosted the

semi-annual meeting at Silvertip.

Also included on the list were **Jim Prentice, '77 BCom**, the newly-appointed Minister of the Environment; adjunct Business Professor of Corporate Social Responsibility and alternative economist Mark Anielski for his 2007 book, *The Economics*



of Happiness which suggests we stop thinking of gross domestic product as the only tool we use to measure wealth; philanthropist Dianne Kipnes who, together with her husband Irv established the Dianne and Irving Kipnes Chair in Finance and Development at the Alberta School of Business to help develop policy options in raising living standards in low income countries among other projects; and School of Business Business Advisory Council members Don Wheaton, of Edmonton landmarks the Don Wheaton Chevrolet Oldsmobile Ltd and the Don Wheaton Family YMCA and Charlotte Robb, who was previously CEO of DynaLife DX and is now the interim CEO of Alberta's new \$30 billion health board.

provide innovative solutions that allow companies to collaborate, manage projects, and information regardless of geographic locations.

'70s

'72 Eric Jaschke, BCom, and his wife Leslie Ayre-Jaschke have lived in Peace River, Alberta, for 28 years and have raised two sons together. Leslie was elected to the Peace River Town Council in October 2007.

'73 Harold Banister, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is the President of Banister Investment Group and an Associate of Banister Research & Consulting Inc., and is a long-time, generous supporter of the University. His commitment of time and resources has benefited many within the University community and the community at large. Harold received the 2008 Alumni Centenary Award for Voluntary Service to the University at the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony on September 18, 2008, at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music.

'73 Yusuf Karbani, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, is on the Board of the Edmonton Community Foundation, an organization that invests donor contributions in perpetuity to create legacies in the areas of arts and culture and health and wellness.

'73 Doug Thomson, BCom, of St. Albert, Alberta, was named Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta at the 2008 Merit Awards Gala held in Edmonton in June.

'75 Wayne Chodzicki, BCom, of Calgary Alberta, is a Partner at KPMG LLP. Wayne received the Fellow of the Chartered Accountants 2008 Merit Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta.

'77 Marvin Hough, MBA, '75 BCom, of Wasaga Beach, Ontario, has been appointed Executive-in-

LEADING ALUMNI

Institute of Corporate Directors – Honouring an Exceptional Career



Robert Bertram '71 MBA, is a visionary leader with a passion for finance, governance, and education. His leadership has helped to propel the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan to international stature. On the eve of his retirement we have a special opportunity to celebrate his career with a matching gift in his honour to the newly-established Canadian Foundation for Governance Research. Robert has been an instrumental figure in governance across the country and in the establishment of both the Institute of Corporate Directors and the Canadian Foundation for Governance Research. To pay tribute to Robert your support will establish endowed funds for the:

ROBERT BERTRAM DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARDS

Robert Bertram heads the investment side of Teachers', overseeing the investment activities of the Canadian and international equity indexes, fixed income and foreign exchange, equities, merchant banking, quantitative investment, real estate, and the research and economics departments. Prior to joining Teachers', Robert was a long-time employee of Alberta Government Telephone/TELUS, including serving as Treasurer. Robert has held governance roles in a number of organizations including Glass Lewis, Cadillac Fairview, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, the Canadian Public Accountability Board, Pension Investment Association of Canada, Institute of Corporate Directors, and Toronto Community Fund. Robert is also a Chartered Financial Analyst and ICD.D certified director.

For further information please contact Beverly Topping, President and CEO, Institute of Corporate Directors at btopping@icd.ca

Residence focusing on international business at the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa. Previously, he served as Regional Vice President, Asia, for Export Development Canada.

'80s

'80 John Musgreave, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, has been named a Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Edmonton. John joined the firm in 1980, transferred to London in 1989, was admitted to the partnership in 1994, and now returns to the Edmonton office in the audit and insurance group.

'80 Mary C. Ritchie, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, received the 2008 Alumni Honour Award at the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony on September 18, 2008, at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music. Mary is the President of Richford Holdings and is also a member of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Board of Industrial Alliance Ltd, the University's Audit Committee, and the School of Business Advisory Council.

'82 Sheena Bethel-Cox, BCom, of Basel, Switzerland, writes to say that she's working for the Basel Area Business Development Office promoting the city as a business

destination and assisting businesses that wish to locate there.

'82 Brad Danyluik, BCom of Sherwood Park, Alberta, has been appointed the new Managing Partner for Alberta for the international accounting firm of Grant Thornton.

'82 Jill Matthew, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is Senior Vice President of Strategic Development and Planning with EPCOR. Fellow alumni in the management team of EPCOR include **'81 Brian Vaasjo, MBA**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; **'79 Mark Wiltzen, BCom**, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer;

LEADING ALUMNI

Business in Vancouver – Scrap’s Silver Lining

For **Don Holmstrom, '83 BCom**, of Vancouver, bigger is better. The aggressive growth strategy through acquisitions the Vancouver entrepreneur employed in helping create a funeral home empire with the Loewen Group and one of Canada’s largest golf course operators as owner and CEO of Eaglequest Golf Centres Inc., is now being channeled into a new prospect. Don has stepped in as Director, President and CEO of the Silver Recycling Co. Inc. (TSV-V:TSR) to turn the private startup into North America’s first publicly-traded silver-recycling company. Headquartered in Vancouver, Silver Recycling recently closed its first major acquisition, a 55-employee firm near Philadelphia that has annual revenue of US \$85 million. “It’s a multibillion-dollar industry, but we kind of fly under the radar screen” says Don.



Photo from Dominic Schaefer

'86 Richard Jenkins, BCom, of Oakville, Ontario, is the Managing Director of Black Creek Investment Management Inc. He writes: “After a brief time off, I am back at it. This time building a private employee-owned investment firm with one of my former Trimark Partners. We are focusing on long-term investment excellence and have a retail distribution arrangement in Canada with Hartford Investments. In addition, we are building up a suite of in-house investment products for accredited investors (high net worth in Canada).

'86 Paul Matson, BCom, of Phoenix, Arizona, received his Master’s degree in Political Science from Arizona State University in 2007. Paul is the executive director of the Arizona State Retirement System, which oversees \$25 billion of investments.

'86 Karyn Schaefer, BCom, of Calgary, Alberta, was the featured luncheon speaker at the Alberta Venture/School of Business annual Women on Board Corporate Governance Symposium held September 28–30 in Kananaskis. Karyn is the Senior Manager of Transaction Advisory Services for Ernst & Young. Karyn spoke on “The Board’s Role in Integrating Major Acquisitions.” Ernst & Young was the title sponsor for the event.

'88 Tammy Fallowfield, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is serving the last year of her second term on the U of A Senate. Tammy also headed the selection committee for new U of A Chancellor Linda Hughes. She continues to give her time to the Alberta School of Business judging student case competitions and will be a guest speaker at the CGA MBA forum in January.



'88 Brian Ford, BCom, of Toronto, Ontario, is Vice President of Payments and

and **'86 Stuart Lee, BCom**, Vice President and Corporate Controller. Jill attended the Alberta Venture/School of Business annual Women on Board Corporate Governance Symposium held September 28–30 in Kananaskis.

'82 Gerry Tywoniun, BCom, of Long Beach, California, has been appointed to the position of Senior Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer for Pacific Energy Resources Ltd. Pacific Energy is an independent energy company engaged in the acquisition, development, and exploitation of producing oil and gas properties in the Western US.

'83 John Mahon, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, is on the Board of the Edmonton Community Foundation, an organization that invests donor contributions in perpetuity to create legacies in the areas of arts and culture and health and wellness.

'83 Richard Pedde, BCom, of Indian Head, Saskatchewan, co-authored the report: “A Bushel Half Full: Reforming the Canadian Wheat Board” discussing the competitiveness of the Canadian Wheat Board. The report was published by the C.D. Howe Institute. Richard is a farmer and former derivatives trader.

'84 Altaf (Al) Jina, BCom, of Vancouver, British Columbia, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Park Place Seniors Living Inc., which provides care and housing to over 1200 seniors in British Columbia and Alberta. Al serves on the Boards of British Columbia’s Care Providers Association, Health Employers Association, Continuing Legal Education Society, and the Board of Examiners in Optometry.

'85 Mona Hale, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is the new Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation.

'85 Kevin Higa, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is the Chief Financial Officer of the Running Room Canada Inc. and



is training to run his 21st marathon at the 2009 Boston Marathon. He was a guest speaker at the Top

of Class Business Etiquette Dinner hosted by the Cooperative Students’ Exchange Association on November 19 and currently is on the U of A School of Retail Advisory Board.

'85 Jerry Turin, BCom, of San Jose, California, was appointed Chief Financial Officer of Bookham, Inc., a leading provider of optical components, modules, and subsystems. Jerry is also a member of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta.

Cash Management at HSBC Canada heading up the Canadian sales team. He is responsible for sales strategy, training, customer relationship management, and service delivery. Prior to moving to HSBC in 2005, Brian held senior cash management positions with BMO Nesbitt Burns and Toronto-Dominion Bank.

'89 **Doug Bristow, BCom**, of Edmonton, Alberta, has been appointed to the accounting and finance team of recruiters at David Aplin Recruiting where he will use his 15 years of high-level recruiting experience to specialize in contract placements of senior-level accounting and finance professionals.

'89 **Calvin Chan, BCom** of Calgary, Alberta, has recently joined Theologian Management Ltd, a private-equity firm, as their new Chief Financial Officer.

'89 **Peter Keohane, MBA**, of Calgary, Alberta, joined McCarthyTétrault as a Partner in the firm's Energy Group.

Peter returns to private practice after six years as Executive Director (Legal) for UBS Commodities Canada Ltd. Prior to this, he held senior legal roles in leading energy corporations and in private practice.

Henry Singer Award

– Outstanding Alumna

Melanie Lablanc, '91 BCom, worked in her mom's store as a youngster and continued to work in retail part time throughout university. Her passion for clothing and fashion blended well with her marketing background fostered at the U of A. Upon graduating with a major in marketing, she took what was considered at the time a huge risk: a career in retail. While many of her peers took up accounting or banking or insurance, Melanie joined Western Canadian based ladies wear store Devonshire Cream in 1991 and quickly rose through the ranks. In late 1993, Melanie was recruited by Talbot's, an established American Ladies apparel company as it pushed to establish a strong presence in western Canada. She established four new stories for the firm. Melanie was then promoted to district manager for Western Canada and soon thereafter to district manager for the Toronto area, Canada's largest market.

Being closer to her family made her decide to move to Calgary in 2000 to join a small two-store retailer called Ducks where she is now general manager for all three Calgary locations. One of her proudest achievements is her involvement in the Ducks "Fashion with Compassion" fundraiser, in support of Breast Cancer, which held its seventh annual lunch and fashion show in September.

Another proud moment was being awarded the Henry Singer Outstanding Alumna with a Career in Retailing Award on October 6. The award was presented by **Kyle Murray, '04 PhD**, and the new Director for the School of Retailing, a research and teaching centre within the School of Business. Other award winners included London Drugs President Wynne Powell as the 2008 Henry Singer Award winner; Professor Jennifer Argo was awarded the "Outstanding Researcher" for her numerous studies on consumer behavior and marketing.

Melanie's proudest moment, however, was the recent birth of Gabrielle who is one lucky little girl – not only will she be well-dressed, she has a wonderful role model in her mom. "Melanie embodies what successful (retail) careers are all about – education, passion, achievement, respect, and dedication to excellence," said Paul McElhone, Associate Director of the School of Retailing. "Her low-key but committed management style makes employees want to achieve," and will no doubt make her children want to excel as well.

LEADING ALUMNI



Edmonton Journal

– Woman of Vision

Jane Halford, '94 BCom, was described as an “affable Woman of Vision (who) shakes up the accountant stereotype. She’s young, fun-loving, and casual with a funky haircut and a colourful wardrobe. And she’s changing the culture of the governing body of her profession.” Jane became CEO and Executive Director of the Chartered Accountants of Alberta. Jane became the first woman and just the third full-time CEO in the institute’s 95-year history taking over from her mentor **Steve Glover, '87 MBA**, in 2005.

“She provides a lot of positive feedback and lets us get our hands dirty and be creative,” says Oscar Basrzilary-Lamers, one of Jane’s younger staff. “She doesn’t keep us on a leash in that respect.” Co-worker Katie Starratt concurs, “She really connects well with students and is able to talk with them because she knows what it’s like. She followed her goals and her vision and she wants students to follow theirs.” Jane’s open-door mentorship style comes from her own experience. “The first five years of my career, I was not at all who I am today. I was timid and afraid to ask questions. And it was only through that struggle that I started to realize I need to surround myself with mentors, people I could learn from, ask questions.”

LEADING ALUMNI



in at 7 lbs, 9 ozs and is a confirmed Oilers supporter. Baby and Mom are both doing great. Our sincere thanks to everyone for their very kind words and support over the last several months.” Court, President of Acklands-Grainger, received the 2008 Alumni Award of Excellence on September 18, at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music.

'93 Connie Hykaway, BCom, of Calgary, Alberta, recently joined the office of Miller Thompson LLP as an Associate.

'93 Nathan Whitting, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, was one of three recipients of the 2008 Canadian National Pro Bono Awards in Vancouver in September. Nathan and colleague Dennis Edney jointly received the award for their no-fee legal representation of Omar Khadr, a Canadian citizen who has been imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay since 2002.

'94 Katharina Doyle, BCom, of Calgary, Alberta, is the co-founder of the Canadian Scrapbooker magazine, which celebrated its third anniversary this fall. The magazine is for sale at scrapbooking stores and major newsstands including Superstore, Chapters and Indigo (they publish four issues a year, 21,000 copies of each). Katharina says: “We’re not raking in the big bucks, but it’s a successful business.”

'94 Don E. Sieben, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, has been appointed to the Alberta Health Services Board.

'95 Mariesa Carbone, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, has joined the office of the accounting firm Meyers Norris Penny LLP.

'95 Dion J. Legge, BCom, of Calgary, Alberta, was recently made a Partner in the Calgary office of the law firm Macleod Dixon LLP. Dion’s specialty is tax law with a primary emphasis on tax planning for corporations, trusts, and partnerships.

'90s

'91 Grant Doyle, BCom, of Calgary, Alberta, joined RepeatSeat as Director Global Business Strategies and is charged with building the secondary business and experience arm of the RepeatSeat business. Grant is the creator of industry-leading Websites such as the Social Insider whose assets currently have ticket listings for over 1,000 entertainment options.

'91 Carole Hunt, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, is the new Chief Legal Counsel and Corporate Secretary for AIMCo. Her fellow alumni include: **'74 Jai Parihar, MBA**, Chief

Investment Officer; **'76 Jayany (Jay) Kembhavi, MBA**, Chief Operating Officer; **'81 Sharilee Fossum, BCom**, Chief Technology Officer; **'81 Douglas Stratton, BCom**, Director, Fund Management; **'88 Savvas Pallaris, MBA**, Director, Structured and Quantitative Investments; **'90 Kirby O'Connor, BCom**, Director, Active Equities; and **'96 Gary Smith, PhD**, Chief Economist.

'91 Leon Pfeiffer, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, has been invited into the partnership at the law firm of Kingston Ross Pasmak LLP.

'92 Darren Dahl, BCom, of Vancouver, British Columbia,



presented a lecture at the Alberta School of Business on November 21 on the topic “I’ll Have What She’s Having: The Social Influence of Obese Consumers on the Food Choices of Others.” Darren is an Associate Professor with the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia.



'93 Court Carruthers, BCom, of Mississauga, Ontario, writes: “After spending the last ten days being

overdue, and clearly showing us who is now in charge, Aidan graced us with his wonderful presence at 10:30 pm on Saturday, June 21, 2008. He weighed

FP EXECUTIVE

LEADING ALUMNI

Alumni Perspectives Wanted

Vancouver-based **Alvin Chow, '91 BCom**, Director of Publishing Sales for Canwest, and his Toronto colleagues John Turley-Ewart, Editor, and Dean Cummer, Associate Editor visited Dean Mike Percy and a small group of professors in August to discuss a new initiative, FP Executive, with features to be provided on, and by, faculty, alumni, and students of Canadian business schools. The initiative includes a full monthly supplement, a shorter weekly feature, and a growing on-line presence – bloggers wanted!

Thanks to Accounting Professor Karim Jamal, and School of Retailing Director, **Kyle Murray, '04 PhD**, for contributing articles for the inaugural monthly supplement on October 28. The second supplement, the MBA issue, came out on November 25. Thanks to MBA student Christopher Lynch for his story on the recent MBA Brazilian study tour. The week of November 25 also featured a story "Downturn presents opportunity for retailers" by Kyle Murray. Of interest the story was then picked up by the National Retail Federation for their global distribution list and was the most "clicked" story in the past 30 days.

Please visit www.financialpost.com/executive. To contribute a perspective please contact either Monica Wegner, Communications Strategist, Alberta School of Business at 780.492.7996 or mwegner@ualberta.ca; or John Turley-Ewart, jturleyewart@nationalpost.com.



'95 Jason Quilley, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is the Controller for the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club. "There's never been a dull moment," he says. "It's not your traditional controller's role. The sports and entertainment industry is really diverse."

'96 Rozina Kassam, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, has been appointed Chief Financial Officer of Commercial Solutions Inc. Rozina had previously held controller positions with publicly-traded entities on the Toronto Stock Exchange. One was an international large-equipment dealer and the other a diversified natural

resources company. She also holds a Chartered Accountant designation.

'96 Liane Kim, MBA, of Toronto, Ontario, joined PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in the Government and Public Sector practice as Director in June 2008. Liane is enjoying the challenges and successes with her new role

while managing to balance family commitments and alumni events with the School of Business.

'96 Markus Weber, MBA, now lives in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

'97 Joanne Beaton, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, is on the Board of the Edmonton Community Foundation, an organization that invests donor contributions in perpetuity to create legacies in the areas of arts and culture and health and wellness.

'97 David L. Sharko, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, has been made a Partner at the law firm Parlee McLaws LLP. David is a member of the firm's Aboriginal law, litigation, and commercial real estate practice groups. His civil litigation experience is wide ranging with extensive involvement in large-loss claims. He has appeared before various levels of the Alberta and Federal courts including the Supreme Court of Canada.

'98 R. Grant Bennett, MBA, of Kamloops, British Columbia, recently retired from the role of Edmonton District Vice President of the Bank of Montreal and writes that the "family and I are returning to our roots in Kamloops to enjoy our next exciting life stage. Best wishes to all."

'98 Cindy Brinkman (Ho), BCom, writes that she and **Cameron Brinkman, '98 BCom**, were married in August 2005. The couple, who live in Edmonton, "were thrilled to introduce Carter Quinn to the world the following June." She also adds that in January 2008, "Carter became a big brother when Declan Cole arrived."

Cindy works as a business analyst with ATCO I-Tek while Cameron was recently admitted to the Partnership of Meyers Norris Penny LLP practicing in the Business Valuations and Litigation Support team after having obtained his Chartered Accountant designation in 2001 and his Chartered Business Valuator designation in 2005.

LEADING ALUMNI

BDC's – Young Entrepreneur Award for Alberta



Ted Kouri, '97 BCom, and **Jared Smith, '98 BCom,** used their shared passion for marketing to start Incite Solutions Inc. in 1999. Today their full-service marketing company has grown to more than 20 employees while earning industry acclaim as well as national recognition. Ted and Jared won the Business Development Bank of Canada's (BDC) Young Entrepreneur for Alberta and were honoured October 21 at a ceremony in Vancouver. With a targeted marketing approach called Thrive™ that the partners created, Incite helps clients build enduring

customer relationships and sustainable results. The approach has gained recognition within Canada's marketing industry as a leading model for building a strong and growing business. In 2008, Incite also made PROFIT magazine's list of Canada's "next 100 fastest growing companies."

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Alumni being awarded for their entrepreneurial success also include **Brian Hesje, '73 MBA,** Chairman, Fountain Tire; **Dan Klemke, '78 BCom,** President, KMC Mining, and **Chris Vilczak, '97 MBA,** President and Chief Executive Officer, Solution 105 Consulting, of Edmonton, Alberta who were all nominated for the 2008 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.



'98 Rob Elgie, MBA, of Calgary, Alberta, is the Manager of Investor Relations of Oilexco Inc, a Calgary-headquartered oil and gas company with operations in the UK North Sea. His primary functions since joining the company in 2005 have been focused on initiating a formal IR program during a time when the company has experienced tremendous growth from an \$800 million market capitalization to one that is \$2 billion. Prior to joining Oilexco, he was the Director of the British Trade Office in Calgary and, previously, he worked as a management consultant for a large firm. Rob became a Canadian Investor



Relations Institute (CIRI) Alberta Director in 2006 and currently serves as the Membership Chair.

'98 Chris Lavin, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, recently accepted the role of Vice President, Management Consulting, for Sierra Systems with accountability for management consulting services across the company. He also coaches his son's novice hockey team and is the Chair of the Kids Help Phone, Edmonton Chapter Council.

'98 Joelle McLaren, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, has been a franchise owner of California Closets in Edmonton for four years.

'99 Aly Virani, BCom, currently an investment consultant in London, England, came back for Reunion Weekend and, while there, took time to speak with students from the relatively new Business Exchange Association about his experiences working abroad. He also volunteered to help with alumni initiatives in both England and France (where he lived prior to his move to England). Congratulations on your engagement!

'99 Kurt Locke, BCom, of Calgary, Alberta, has been appointed Senior Manager and income tax specialist in the Calgary office for the international accounting firm GrantThornton.

'99 Scott Young, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, writes: "After I left the Alberta School of Business, I went to work for Optrics Engineering where I became Business Manager and later became a Partner. I'm pleased to say that it was announced that we have been listed for the third year in a row on the top 100 ranking of Canada's Fastest-Growing Companies by Profit Magazine!"

'00s

'00 Cindy Lieu, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, recently travelled to Australia, New Zealand, and Vietnam in October and November 2008. Cindy writes: "Holding the koala was definitely one of the highlights of my trip." The photo was taken at Cleland Wildlife Park in Craters, South Australia.



'00 Chelsea McKay, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, spent the final year of her business studies in the Honours Commerce program at the University of Edinburgh in the UK. Following graduation, she articulated and practiced as a litigator in Vancouver. She returned to Edmonton in 2007 to start a plaintiff-side practice (primarily personal injury litigation) with Cummings Andrews Mackay LLP.

'01 Chad Boddez, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, writes: "I went through a crooked path to get to where I am today. From science to accounting then marketing. Upon my graduation, instructor Paul McElhone suggested a career in sales. "I am now in my sixth year as a commercial real estate broker with Colliers International."

'01 Tara McCready, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, has moved to Hamilton, Ontario. Tara took a position at McMaster University where she will be heading up a new research initiative at the Population Health Research Institute.

'01 Michelle Witkowski, MBA, of Calgary, Alberta, is Senior Analyst with the Bank of Canada in Calgary with expertise in currency and counterfeiting. Fluent in French and Polish, her background is in marketing, communications, and business development. She is involved in public outreach and communications programs with the Bank of



Canada including a program to increase public awareness of the anti-counterfeiting features found on Canadian bank notes.

Michelle loves the outdoors so in the summer she spends her time in the mountains hiking. She also visited Turkey in her travels last year.

'02 Damien Jaipaul, BCom, of Melbourne, Australia, is working as an executive with KPMG in Melbourne. He is responsible for arranging financing for major procurement products – also known as public-private partnerships – including working on one of the largest transport projects in the world.

'02 Paul Joliat, MBA, of Toronto, Ontario, writes: "It is with great pleasure that Amy and I welcomed Reid William Joliat to the world. Reid was born at 9:16 pm on October 20, weighed in at 7 lbs 7 oz, and is 21.5" long.



We can't wait for everyone to meet him – especially his older brother Cole!"

'02 Philipp Suess, BCom, of Kaiserslautern, Germany, writes: "After I graduated from the Alberta School of Business, I went to the Technical University of Kaiserslautern where I started graduate studies in

Mathematics. I finished my "Diplom" (equivalent to a MSc) in 2005 and went straight for a PhD in the same field and university. On November 14, I completed my requirements and now I have a PhD in math. I signed a contract with a Fraunhofer research institute in Kaiserslautern where I begin work as a scientific employee starting in December."

'03 Sheryl Edey, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is a Manager with Ernst & Young LLP. Sheryl says: "I like the constant challenge of the work – staying on top of the seemingly ever-changing standards, and the fact that each client and industry is totally different."

'03 Charles Gordon, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is working with Xerox Canada handling recruitment for the western Canadian major urban centres. He is living in Edmonton but



travelling the western provinces to connect with all the offices. He is considering taking his MBA and a Certified Human Resources Professional designation.

'03 Jason Proche, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, writes: "In September, I joined Deloitte in Edmonton as Manager of the Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability service area. My focus will be on building the practice for the Edmonton and northern Alberta marketplace. I will draw upon Deloitte's strong qualifications and expertise from elsewhere in Canada in providing advisory services in the areas of sustainable business and corporate responsibility, environmental risk management, climate change, sustainability reporting, and corporate governance. I am extremely excited with the new opportunity and I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead."

PROFIT Magazine

– Top 100 Fastest Growing Companies

When a company has a lackluster Website and PrimalTribe wants some new business, they may redesign it on spec. That method, while not taught at the School of Business as a sure-fire way to get new clients, is part of what has led the Edmonton firm, co-owned by **Mitch Compri, '97 MBA,** to be named to PROFIT magazine's top 100 fastest growing Canadian companies of 2007 at number 69. The award ceremony was June 17, 2008 in Toronto. In the last five years, the company has grown 858 percent focusing on marketing and communications including clients such as Sawridge Hotels, Henry Singer, the Paul Brown Show (The Bear), and actor Jamie Foxx. The Edmonton-based firm also has an office in Calgary, over 350 clients, and \$1.22 million in revenue last year.



LEADING ALUMNI



UNLIMITED Magazine

– Author, Columnist, Speaker

Lesley has been building a portfolio of investments for over 15 years, owns a beautiful home, has been travelling across North America on speaking engagements, and shared investment strategies on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*:

“wealthy people have three characteristics: they spend their money wisely, they think ahead, and they give back to the community.”

- Best-selling author: *Rich by Thirty*
- Leading columnist: *unlimited* magazine
- Speaker at: *unlisted SUMMIT 2008*
 - > Professional Development for the New Business Culture
 - > Banff Centre, Nov 30 – Dec 2, 2008

Alberta BCom

- 17 specializations including Honours Finance.
- 15 student clubs including PRIME – student run investment program managing \$1.2 million fund.
- 22 international exchange opportunities.



LESLEY SCORGIE, '05 BCom

“I had a tremendous experience at the Alberta School of Business – I recommend the University of Alberta to everyone I meet.”

www.business.ualberta.ca

'03 Landon White, BCom, of Calgary, Alberta, has recently accepted a position in the procurement department with Bantrel Co. in Calgary. At the U of A, he was a member of the Golden Bears football



team for five seasons and, upon graduation, was drafted to the CFL. He went on to play football professionally in Germany and, at the same time, studied at the Hamburg University of Technology where he graduated with an MBA in supply chain management. He is happy to be back in Canada and is looking forward to his new position. Landon attended the 2008 School of Business Breakfast at the Ceili's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Calgary. He says that he was very impressed with the Stampede Breakfast and is still using the Alberta-style BBQ sauce that was handed out at the event. [Mark the Date: July 8 – third annual Stampede Breakfast, Ceili's, Calgary]

'04 Ben Block, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, writes that he has recently launched Commercial Space, a bi-monthly commercial real estate magazine distributed to over 20,000 businesses. Ben is the President of Sundial Graphics, an Edmonton-based design firm.

'04 Queenie Lung, BCom, of Calgary, Alberta, was recently appointed Chief Financial Officer of TVI Pacific, a publicly-traded Canadian mining company.

'04 Kyle Murray, PhD, of Edmonton, Alberta, is an Associate Professor and Director of the School of Retailing at the Alberta School of Business. Kyle was the guest speaker at the Eric Geddes Breakfast Lectures in Edmonton and Calgary this fall. His topic was: “Neuro-Marketing: The Battle for Customers' Minds.”

'04 Jeff Schellenberg, MBA, '01 BCom, of Toronto, Ontario, is currently positioned in Toronto where he is

enjoying a challenging and rewarding career with Merrill Lynch. Jeff and his wife Kristi recently became parents for the first time and enjoy trips back to Sherwood Park to visit with family and friends.

'04 Paul Wynnyk, MBA, of Ottawa, Ontario was promoted to Brigadier-General. Paul recently relinquished his job as Director General Military Engineering and has been assigned to the Privy Council Office where he works as Director of Operations for the Foreign and Defence Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister.

'05 Christa Cabaj, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is a Corporate Accountant with the Katz Group where she is responsible for overseeing a group of companies and assists with potential acquisitions. Christa says: “The best thing is never knowing what's to come and anticipating the exciting challenges that lie ahead.”

'05 Jim Gibbons, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, is the owner of Ambers Brewing Company, dedicated to creating the world's best beers and beverages. Jim hosted a MBA holiday event on December 5, which included a tour of the brewery.

'05 David Y. Zhang, MBA, of Katy, Texas, was promoted to Chief Financial Officer of LiuGong Construction Machinery, North America, in January 2008. Guangxi LiuGong Machinery Co., Ltd (LiuGong China) is China's leading construction equipment manufacturer and the first stock-listed company in the domestic industry. He says LIUGONG is the best brand in China's wheel-loader industry and is the world's second largest wheel-loader manufacturer for annually outputting more than 30,000 units.

'06 Dinoob Abraham, BCom, of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is the Sales Executive, Non-Magnetic Drilling Products, at NOV Downhole, Drec Middle East.

'06 Kent Akgungor, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, writes: "After returning from a three-month trip in South and East Africa, I started as an Investment Analyst with the City of Edmonton, helping manage the City's roughly \$3 billion investment portfolio. I had done a Co-op work placement there while attending the U of A and was happy to rejoin the team as a full-time permanent employee. I have since enrolled in the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) program and successfully completed the first level last December. I also just completed a three-week trip to Boston, New York, and Washington DC, which was great."

'06 Lisa Mansell, MBA, of Fort McMurray, Alberta, is a Human Resources Manager for Suncor Energy Inc. She was married on September 27, 2008, and honeymooned in California and Nevada. Lisa and her new husband also went to Antigua in August and the Dominican Republic in November

'06 Carole Pele, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, is now Senior Manager, International Education Initiatives, with Alberta Education. She is in charge of marketing and promoting international student recruitment, accreditation of off-shore schools, student-exchanges, educator exchanges, and school partnerships.

Carole recently led a student recruitment mission in China for Alberta school jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions. In October, she completed the final course of the Senior Management Development Program and is now pursuing studies in Intercultural Communications.

'07 Jen Lafferty, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is the Marketing and Resource Development Coordinator with the Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd. and Development Coordinator for the CA Education Foundation with the

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta. Married last year, Jen has also obtained her open-water scuba diving certification while at the same time she and her new husband are building a new house.

'07 Bruce Laverty, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, has joined the MBA Programs Office at the U of A



School of Business as Director of Development and Recruitment.

'07 Cameron Linke, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is now the Product Manager at Nexopia, a social network based in Edmonton, focused on the teen segment. He also organizes tech events bringing together people in the

tech community in Edmonton such as Demodays, where he links early-stage tech companies with investors. His blog is <http://camlinke.typepad.com/>.

'07 Mariko Miyagishima, BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta, is now an Account Coordinator at Calder Bateman. She completed her final semester at the University of Edinburgh with the Cooperative

LEADING ALUMNI

Entrepreneur of the Year – United States



Six years after launching BabyGags, **Shelley Foster's, '98 MBA**, humorous apparel for infants and children are sold at over 700 retailers across North America and online. And San-Francisco based Shelley also recently signed a deal with a European distributor. She has also enjoyed the build up towards the announcement of the US-based publication Entrepreneur magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year for which she was nominated and is a finalist

in the emerging entrepreneur category. Company profiles on the magazine's Website include Shelley's perspectives on the impact of her work on industry, community, employees, and customers. For employee impact, she says: "Babygags offers a flexible schedule for mothers and students so everyone gets what they need: an opportunity to work but the right to live and evolve. I am a lifestyle entrepreneur (who) believes working for yourself is about working to live, not living to work. I spend the non-selling season working virtually from Bali where I design and manufacture and where I also train with the Indo team to become a professional windsurfer."

The company currently has three lines: BabyGags clothing, Silly Souls footwear, and the Moo Me organic brand. The plan is to develop a new category every six-month clothing season. The lines are currently sold in boutique stores including in Edmonton, but she's working on a deal that will place a new, higher-volume brand in major US department stores. Shelley's mentor is none other than her mom Colleen, a long-time Edmonton retailing sales whiz, who is presently with Blu's women's wear for providing "key assist."



Education Program and travelled to Spain and Portugal this past summer. She is currently looking at pursuing an MBA.

'08 MBAs Casey and Lazina (Shamseer) McKenzie of

Edmonton, Alberta, were married in Banff on August 17, 2008, and have now happily settled into their new home and work lives: Casey as a Consultant, Strategic Management, for Stantec; and Lazina as Management Consultant for Sierra Systems.



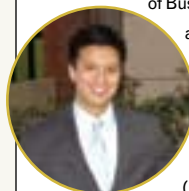
'08 Fraser Murray, MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta, celebrated his convocation with parents Dorothy and Sandy Murray. Fraser's brother Kolin (see photo) is crewing a sailing barque around the world and couldn't participate in person.

Fraser's parents both graduated from the University of Alberta as did his brother Kolin who received his BA in 2008.



'08, Michael Tran, BCom, of Kitimat, British Columbia, joined Union Bank of Switzerland, one of the world's leading financial firms and the biggest investment bank in Europe.

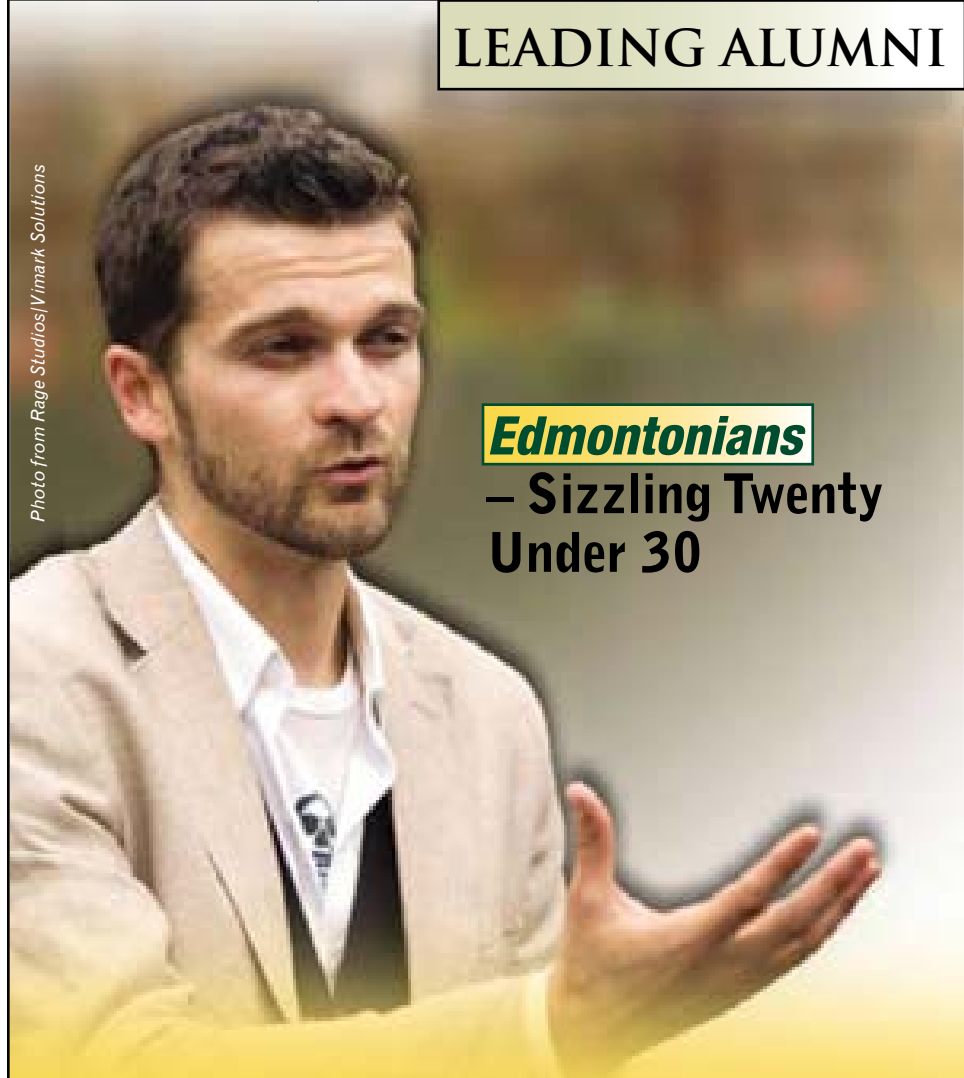
During his time at the Alberta School of Business, Tran was also a member of the Program for Research and Management Excellence (PRIME), which sees the top-ten finance



students every year manage a \$1.3 million endowment fund to enhance their research and investment management skills for two years.

LEADING ALUMNI

Photo from Rage Studios / iMark Solutions



Edmontonians – Sizzling Twenty Under 30

"When **Michael Brechtel, '06 BCom**, was born, his father was working on his thesis and the family was living in an orange Volkswagen van on the prairies. Michael and his siblings were taught to challenge societal norms and ask why? Michael is still all about pushing buttons." After completing his Business degree, he joined a communications firm and loved it so much talking. The company's tagline is "cutting through the clutter," and the Website describes the company as "communication architects" in a world where people are bombarded with advertising messages from all angles. Much of his energy and enthusiasm is directed at involving young people in community development activities, Michael is founding Chair of interVivos, which is dedicated to creating dialogue, leadership and mentorship. His political interests have involved him as a board member of the VOTE! Society of Alberta; he is also Co-chair of ArtScene Edmonton and serves on the board of the Old Strathcona Foundation.

Sharon MacLean's Edmontonians will soon be celebrating its 20th anniversary. Nominations for next year's Sizzlers are now being accepted. Be sure to check out the regular **Linda Banister's, '83 BCom, '87 MBA**, Poll Station feature question online. A December question included "does your consumption of natural health products increase during the cold season?" Linda is President and owner of Banister Research and Consulting Inc.

IN MEMORIAM

The School of Business is saddened by the passing of these alumni:

W. Fay Anderson, '42 BCom, of Calgary, Alberta.

Donald James Fraser, '54 BCom, of Victoria, British Columbia.

Edward James Chambers, '54 BCom, of Calgary, Alberta.

William Arthur Wiese, '58 BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta.

W. Roy Riley, '59 BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta.

Jack Nicholl, '65 BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta.

William (Bill) Kankewitt, '69 BCom, of White Rock, British Columbia.

Allen Balin McQueen, '69 BCom, of St. Albert, Alberta.

James Emmet Devaney, '71 BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta.

James Archibald Campbell, '73 BCom, of Calgary, Alberta.

Randall K. Roy, '74 BCom, of Bedford, Nova Scotia.

Donald James Mckay, '75 BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta.

Maureen McPhillamey, '75 BCom, of Whitecourt, Alberta.

Thomas Poole Tombs, '78 BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta.

Murray Douglas Curran, '80 BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta.

Marcia Laurie Lynn Orobko, '90 BCom, of Raymond, Alberta.

Patricia Ann Tebbutt, '03 MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta.

Siu Lin Tam, '04 MBA, of Edmonton, Alberta.

John P Lyons, '07 BCom, of Edmonton, Alberta.

KEEP *in* TOUCH

Thank you for sharing your news with us, and thank you for mentioning the University of Alberta School of Business affiliation in your announcements where many of these classnotes are found. Thank you also for keeping your contact information up-to-date in order that you may continue to receive your Business Alumni Magazine. We encourage you to stay connected with your alma mater and your classmates!



NEW Facebook: U of A Business Alumni Association (BAA)

On October 17th, we asked our first 21 members to invite some of their friends to join us. We were hoping to get 100 members by the end of October. Guess what? We now have over 500 members!!

Congratulations to our 500th member

Lydia Lin, '05 BCom, of Hong Kong. For this distinction, Lydia wins a classic U of A School of Business gift! Congratulations Lydia!

Would you do us a favour?

1) If you haven't already done so, invite your friends who are alumni to check out our group. It's easy. In the upper right of the BAA page there is an "Invite people to join" button. It's pretty straight forward from there.

2) Click the "Share +" button and post it to your profile (just three below the Invite link)

Thanks for your help.

Kurian Tharakan, '85 BCom, Moderator



Network: see inside front cover for upcoming events



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CAMERON LINKE LINKED IN TO TECHNOLOGY

At 25 years old, he's older than most of the clients he serves, but that doesn't phase Cameron Linke, '07 BCom.

Working for Nexopia, a social networking site aimed at teenagers, wasn't anywhere in Cameron Linke's career plan until he did research on technology commercialization for the MBA office for two summers while he completed his undergraduate degree.

"It fascinated me. I knew then that I wanted to work in start ups, but I knew my finance major would still be important."

Cameron started as a product manager for four-year-old Nexopia in August. "It had a young founder and the site appeals to that demographic because we allow more self-expression and users meet people they wouldn't normally meet," he explained.

While Facebook is geared towards keeping people in touch with their off-line friends, Nexopia aims to be an open forum for discussion and has the third largest group of registered users in North America after Facebook and MySpace at 1.4 million.

Cameron, a born-and-raised Edmontonian, worked with West Link after graduation, a two-year program with three eight-month internships with various technical and financial companies. At a conference, he met the organizer of Democamp and Barcamp in Calgary who suggested Cameron start the same events in Edmonton.

Barcamp is a "non-conference" held approximately every six months where people interested in the Edmonton tech community gather. "Everyone shows up in the morning and people write their name on a block of time with a topic, idea, whatever that they want to present, discuss, learn. Because each session is only 20 minutes, you don't have to prepare a big speech or PowerPoint."

At the monthly Democamp, cool projects and demonstrations are presented. "There's way more happening in the technical world than people know about and people didn't know because they weren't talking," said Cameron.

By networking at the two events, Cameron met people at Nexopia who were interested in the 25-year-old's enthusiasm and open mindedness. While he had to quit the West Link program, he has no regrets. "I think I was in the right place at the right time."

As part of his job as Product Manager, a product might mean adjusting the maneuverability of blogs, one of the most popular




Cameron Linke, '07 BCom.

parts of the site, so readers can close one entry before reading the next instead of having to scroll down to the bottom to read the next, which is the usual format for blogs.

"Blogging is one of most popular things on the site. Most teens offline go to school and get told what to think. They go home and get told what to do. On Nexopia, we allow them to have their own expressions and opinions and they can have a dialogue. There's a big difference between a teacher saying 'that's wrong' and another user saying it. You can argue your point on equal footing."

Of course, he has his own blog too at <http://camlinke.typepad.com/> where he writes about the technology he's interested in and groups he's active with including both technical camps.

Although he's young, Cameron doesn't pretend to know what their clients want. The company relies heavily on surveys and user feedback to constantly update. "If the user emails us, we try to talk to them about what they'd like to see done and what they don't like and why." 

Outside of work, with his continued work in the Barcamps and Democamps, Cameron keeps abreast of the ever evolving technology world. "The growth pace is accelerating and changing so much," he said. "I feel like I've lucked into a lot of things, but, obviously, there's work that goes with it."

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