ACCOUNTANCY & TAXATION

Dr. Ron Lazer, assistant professor for the Department of Accountancy and Taxation, has been recognized with several teaching awards. Lazer was honored with the Bauer College of Business Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award, as well as an award from the Accounting Advisory Board. In addition, he was one of four recipients from the University of Houston campus to receive a UH Teaching Excellence Award.

Five leading accounting faculty from Yale, M.I.T., Southern California, Ohio State and Northwestern presented their research at the third annual Bauer Accounting Research Symposium in March. Attendees included C. T. Bauer College of Business professors and Ph.D. students as well as professors from several universities, including Minnesota, Pennsylvania (Wharton), Texas, Carnegie Mellon, Texas A&M, Colorado, Texas Christian University and London School of Economics. The Accountancy & Taxation Department hosted the event with The Stanford Group Company.

Congratulations to Rabih Zeidan, an accounting Ph.D. graduate who was recognized by the American Accounting Association with an Outstanding Dissertation Award from the association’s government and nonprofit section. Zeidan, who graduated in May, received the award for his dissertation titled “Charity Care Measurement, Political Cost Constraints and Discretionary Spending by Hospitals.” He received a plaque and a $500 award. Dr. Saleha Khumawala, associate professor in the Accountancy & Taxation Department, was Zeidan’s faculty adviser.

In April, Dr. Khumawala was also honored at the annual banquet for Phi Beta Delta, a university organization dedicated to recognizing international education. Dr. Jerald W. Strickland, assistant vice chancellor for International Studies, awarded Khumawala with a plaque for the Outstanding Study Abroad Faculty Award to recognize her work with the India Study Abroad Program.

The Accounting Advisory Board feted students, faculty and staff from the Department of Accountancy and Taxation at an April awards banquet. Dr. James Pratt received the Outstanding Achievement Award for more than three-and-a-half decades of service to Bauer College.

Also receiving awards were Dr. Shiva Sivaramakrishnan, Outstanding Service Award; Dr. Ron Lazer, Outstanding Teaching Award; and Dr. George Drymiotes, Outstanding Research Award. Adalinda Guerrero, business administrator for the department, was given the Staff Excellence Award.

Several students were also recognized, including David Grimes, Brent Garza, Christian Kuiate Sobngwi and Gerry Tsoi, who were given Academic Excellence Awards. Leadership Excellence Awards went to students Jimmy Lam, Marsha Dhingra, Linda Luong and Huma Seth. In addition, Tom Chang was selected to be the Texas Society of CPAs Outstanding Student for 2008.

DECISION AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

Assistant professor Jaana Porra has been invited to join the editorial board of the Journal of the Association for Information Systems.
Professor Wynne Chin is one of top five human computer interaction researchers and one of the top 10 researchers in technology acceptance, according to the Journal of the Association for Information Systems and the Communications of the Association for Information Systems.

In addition, Chin is also the first Bauer College professor to serve as president of the UH Faculty Senate, a position he took in January.

Dr. Basheer Khumawala, John & Rebecca Moores Professor, has been named chair of the Decision & Information Sciences Department. Khumawala joined the UH faculty in 1978 and has served as chair of the Management Systems and Strategy Department and as President of the MS/OR Society of Houston. He was honored in 1993 with the award of the Fellow of the Decision Sciences Institute.

Four students from the Decision and Information Sciences department received a combined $3,000 in scholarship funding from Target Corporation after winning a team case study competition in one of Professor Jamison Day’s classes. The team included marketing graduate Josh Stirneman (’07), management information systems senior Kevin Mostajeran, and operations management juniors Thomas Hein and Andrew Tong.

Professor Day also recently received a $30,000 grant from Oak Ridge National Laboratories for his research “Summary of Knowledge on Community Resilience in Disaster Relief.” In addition, an article he co-wrote with Surya Pathak, Anand Nair, William J. Sawaya and Murat Kristal, “Building Supply Chain Network Theory Using Complex Adaptive Systems,” was published in Decision Sciences in November.

The MIS area in DISC ranked #1 in research productivity among IS departments in the Gulf Coast, according to a 2002 study by Alan R. Dennis published in the Academy of Management Journal. In addition, it is ranked in the top 30 internationally relative to research productivity, with professors Dennis Adams, Randy Cooper, and Blake Ives each ranked in the top 40 in terms of research impact, according to a 2007 study by Karuga, et al., published in the Communications of the Association for Information Systems.

In addition, this article placed the University of Houston above institutions such as SMU, Boston, Purdue, Michigan, Penn, Ohio State, Baylor, and Case Western Reserve. Also, Adams and Cooper were authors/co-authors, respectively, of the 4th and 7th papers with the highest research impact.

FINANCE

Bauer’s Cougar Fund now has bragging rights as the home of the best student stock analysis team in the country and third in the world, as determined by the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute. A four-member team placed ahead of Rutgers University and the University of Spain after making it to the final five of CFA’s Global Investment Research Challenge in May. These students first topped teams from the University of Texas, Rice University and other Texas schools before traveling to New York City, where they outperformed business school powerhouses, including MIT and Carnegie-Mellon University. The team included Joe Corkin, Mauricio Franco, John Keeton and Quyen Nguyen, all graduate students in Bauer’s Finance department. These students were keynote speakers at the annual Chartered Financial Analyst luncheon in April.

Bauer finance students claimed the top two spots in the NYMEX Open Outcry Competition held in April. Ana Lucia Chaverria and Rieza Marukot took first and second place, respectively, with Chaverria winning $1,000 in scholarship funds and an internship at NYMEX. Students from universities across Texas and Oklahoma competed in the event, with seven out of 17 finalist positions held by Bauer College students.

The University of Houston Global Energy Management Institute was featured prominently in the March 10 issue of BusinessWeek, which named the center as one of the nation’s most impressive niche programs for business students. Finance/GEM senior Mario Bejarano was photographed for the magazine.
at the ExxonMobil complex in Baytown. The magazine also ranked the college No. 40 on its list of the best public undergraduate business schools in the United States.

Five finance students have been admitted to the summer 2008 class of interns for the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, which recruits, selects and trains outstanding college students of color for summer internships that lead to full-time jobs with investment banks, corporate law firms and other leading global companies. This number is up from last summer, when two Bauer students were selected for the program, and is the highest number of any Texas university. The students selected were Mario Bejarano, Atiba Henry, Mubeen Khumawala, Reagan McKinney and Jing Xie.


Praveen Kumar, chair of the Department of Finance, and Latha Ramchand, associate dean of programs and administration, co-authored “Takeovers, Market Monitoring and International Corporate Governance” that is forthcoming in Rand Journal of Economics.

Kumar also co-authored a paper with Dr. Stuart Turnbull, “Optimal Patenting and Licensing of Financial Innovations,” that is forthcoming in Management Science. In addition, Kumar was an invited speaker at the Laurier Conference on “Recent Advances in Corporate Finance.”

Assistant professor of finance Nisan Langberg has a forthcoming publication in the Journal of Finance Intermediation titled “Optimal Financing for Growth Firms.”


In addition, Pirrong has been named to the Energy Markets Advisory Committee, a group that will provide a public forum to examine emerging issues related to energy markets and the role of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under the Commodity Exchange Act.

Pirrong was also quoted in the Summer 2007 issue of CME Group Magazine on the impact of the merger of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Chicago Board of Trade, which is now the world’s largest and most diverse exchange. In addition, Pirrong was the keynote speaker at the Second Annual International Conference of the Italian Federation of Applied Mathematics held in Champoluc, Italy. He was also a lecturer at the University of Paris/European Society for the new Institutional Economics Summer School in Cargese, Corsica, France, and he will present “The Organization of Execution, Clearing, and Settlement” at the Industrial Organization of Securities Markets Conference in Frankfurt, Germany.

Assistant professor Alex Boulatov and Professor Thomas George, director of the AIM Center for Investment Management, presented their paper “Securities Trading when Liquidity Providers are Informed” at the annual meetings of the American Finance Association.

Robert Whitaker (’03) received an MBA from Bauer College and a master’s in public health from Yale University in May. He has secured a position with Health Management Associates, a 58-hospital health care system. His position is part of the management training program, “CFO Executive Development Program.” Whitaker said having his MBA from Bauer College played a significant part in getting this position.

Whitaker also founded a small private foundation named after his parents, the Donald and Mary Whitaker Foundation, providing a scholarship to an undergraduate at the UH Cullen College of Engineering and grants to elementary schools in low-income areas in east Houston to support extracurricular activities.

Four outstanding graduate students were honored with awards at the Spring 2008 Graduate Commencement Ceremony. Kristen Senechal was named the Outstanding MBA Student, Ron Kremmer was Outstanding MS in Finance Student, Marsha Dhingra was Outstanding MS in Accountancy Student, and Robert Wilson was named Outstanding Executive MBA Student.

The National Association for Women MBAs hosted the first Women in Leadership Symposium in March, featuring Fran Keeth (MS ACCY ‘80, JD ‘88), retired CEO of Shell Chemi-
Jacqueline Kacen, a clinical professor of marketing, was recently chosen as one of the two professors out of 300 to win the Journal of Advertising’s Outstanding Ad Hoc Reviewer for 2007. Because of her excellent work, she has been asked to join the Editorial Review Board of Journal of Advertising. Dr. Kacen also brings her expertise into the classroom for all the Bauer students who take MARK 4367 “Advertising and Promotion Management.”

Congratulations to Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship students Brian Heitz and Matthew Clark on winning awards at two national business plan competitions. Heitz and Clark took third place in the business plan competition and first place in the “elevator pitch” competition at the Northwest Venture Championship in Boise, Idaho. They also took third place in the Nascent 500 Business Plan Challenge at Ball State University. Our WCE students have won 14 awards in national business plan competitions in the past 7 years, which is more than any other school.

Doctoral student Babu John Mariadoss won first prize in the Mary Kay Doctoral Dissertation Competition at the 2008 Academy of Marketing Science Annual Conference in May. The paper, “Two Essays on Team Perspectives in Sales,” was chaired by associate professor Michael Ahearne, executive director of the Sales Excellence Institute, and Dr. Edward Blair, chairman of the Department of Marketing & Entrepreneurship.

An article by Betsy D. Gelb, Larry J. Sachnowitz Professor of Marketing & Entrepreneurship, and Gabriel M. Gelb, titled “When Appearances Are Deceiving,” was featured in a December issue of the Wall Street Journal. The article focused on how companies can protect themselves against “trade dress,” or imitation of the look and feel of a product or package.

Several Bauer College staff members were recognized at the 2008 University of Houston Staff Excellence Award Ceremony. Congratulations to Troy Hopkins, Academic Advisor 2 in the Department of Accountancy & Taxation, for receiving the George Magner Staff Award for Undergraduate Advising. Hopkins, who has been with the university for nearly seven years and has served in his current position since 2006, was honored for his work with the Professional Program in Accounting.

Recognition was also given to Bauer College employees who have been with the university for at least 20 years. Daniel Currie, executive director of Graduate and Professional Programs and director of the GEMBA Program, was recognized for 20 years of service, as was Marian Newman, MBA Academic Advisor 2, and Chris Turner, Pre-Business Academic Advisor 2.
In addition, communications manager Jessica Robertson was acknowledged as one of 10 recipients of the UH Staff Council Scholarship.

Congratulations to Jessica Fung, an accounting and management student who was named Outstanding Undergraduate for Spring 2008. Fung was a member of the Bauer College team that participated in the 2007 Deloitte National Student Case Study Seminar, which invited only six teams nationwide to participate in the competition. She has also been an officer in several student organizations, was a member of the Bauer Business Honors Program and received the Ted Bauer Student Service Award for 2006. In 2007, she was recognized with the Department of Accountancy and Taxation Leadership Excellence Award.

Louisiana State University has its first minority business dean in Eli Jones, who joined the Bauer College Marketing & Entrepreneurship Department faculty more than 10 years ago. Jones has been named dean of the E. J. Ourso College of Business at LSU and leaves Bauer College and thousands of students who have gone on to sales industry careers with an indelible mark on his academic, professional and personal leadership of the Sales Excellence Institute. “While we celebrate this significant development for LSU, we will sorely miss Eli and everything he brought to UH Bauer, especially his energy, passion and dedication. We know he will make us proud and do great things at LSU,” Bauer Dean Arthur D. Warga said.

Dr. Elizabeth Anderson Fletcher, who worked for the college for more than a decade, accepted a position as Associate Vice President for Research Operations in the Division of Research at the University.

Welcome to Sharon Lutz, the new corporate director of development for Bauer College. Lutz comes to UH from the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, where she worked the last four years in the Corporate Relationship Management group.

Bauer College also welcomes two new employees to the Undergraduate Business Programs Office. Stephanie Williams joins the team as student activities advisor, and Joyce Williams is advising assistant.

Joining the communications team are two new members, Jesse Perez, internet/intranet developer, and Mark Alvarado, videographer/editor. Rockwell Career Center also added two employees to its staff. Keri Conway is the new events program manager, and Toby Dusette is financial coordinator.

Congratulations to all the staff and faculty recognized with awards at the April 2008 faculty/staff meeting. Bevelyn Williams, office assistant for the Department of Marketing & Entrepreneurship, and Kathy Dominguez, program coordinator for Undergraduate Business Programs, received staff merit awards. Staff excellence awards were given to Jessica Rico, business administrator for the Department of Decision and Information Sciences, and Elizabeth Bullock, academic advisor for the Department of Accountancy & Taxation. Communications director Chester Jacinto received the Dean’s Excellence Award.

Assistant Professor Leiser Silva and Associate Professor Niladri Syam were given Melcher Awards for Excellence in Research. Melcher Awards for Excellence in Teaching went to Keith Cox, Professor and Conn Appliances Faculty Fellow, and Tom Noland, Associate Professor. Associate Professor and Sales Excellence Institute Executive Director Mike Ahearne and Associate Professor Steve Werner were honored with Melcher Awards for Excellence in Service. The Wayne Payne Teaching Award was given to Professor Ed Nathan and Executive Professor Steve Arbogast.

Congratulations to Brent Spraggins, assistant director of pre-business and special programs, who was appointed president of Phi Beta Delta, a national honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education. Bauer College has played a leadership role in the organization, with MBA Academic Advisor 2 Marian Newman serving as a past president.

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Daniel Steppe, director of the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship, was interviewed and quoted in an article in the May 2 issue of the New York Times titled “A Classroom Path to Entrepreneurship.” The article focused on teaching entrepreneurship in college.