Finance Department Hits the Mark
Faculty Publish Articles in Top Academic Journals

Finance faculty had 19 top-tier publications (published or accepted) in 2008-2009. Department chair Praveen Kumar with some of the publications.

Department chair Praveen Kumar published articles in many leading academic journals.
Department chair Praveen Kumar, who is the Texas Bank of Commerce/Tenneco Professor and executive director of the University of Houston Global Energy Management Institute, was the featured speaker for the Houston Energy Risk Managers group during an October meeting. Kumar discussed carbon trading, which is the topic of a course he teaches to graduate students with Professor Craig Pirrong, director of energy markets for UH-GEMI, and Distinguished Scholar Victor Flatt.

Along with Pirrong and Flatt, Kumar led “Cutting through Cap and Trade,” a conference presented by UH-GEMI and the Center for Environment, Energy and Natural Resources (EENR) in July. The three spoke about the intersection of climate change, environmental law, and emissions and commodity trading, and answered questions from an audience that included graduate students and members of the industry.


The department welcomed Professor Kris Jacobs to its faculty this fall. Jacobs previously was on the faculty at McGill University and received his Ph.D. in finance from the University of Pittsburg. His research interests include investments, derivatives, credit risk, volatility and asset pricing.

Three finance seniors — Brenda Guzman, Michelle Mai and Fiza Khalid — received scholarships from Houston Marine Insurance during a reception in November. Research assistant Jonathon Carrasco was also awarded the Clay and Lucy Carter Teaching Excellence Award during the luncheon.

C. T. Bauer Professor of Finance Thomas George and Associate Dean of Programs and Administration Latha Ramchand spoke to a group of high net worth women during a presentation organized by Merrill Lynch at Greenway Plaza. They discussed the basis of financial planning, including savings rates and investment horizons, types of investments, elements of risk, and the impact of taxes and management fees.

Ramchand also spoke in December at the Industry Forecast Forum, an event held by Gulf Publishing Company.
The Dean’s Executive Board welcomed a new chairman and five additional members in 2009-2010. Administaff President Richard Rawson ('72) is incoming chairman, taking over for past chairman John McNabb II, who is chairman for Growth Capital Partners, L.P. The board’s newest members include Sam Douglass ('54), chairman and CEO of Equus II Incorporated; J. Downey Bridgwater ('84), chairman, president and CEO of Sterling Bancshares Inc. and Sterling Bank; Bala V. Balachandran, Founder, Indian School of Business and Great Lakes Management Institute, and former associate dean, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern; Frank Kelley, associate dean of undergraduate studies at Bauer College; and Michael C. Linn, chairman and CEO of LINN Energy.

Bauer College was featured in The Princeton Review’s latest guide to the country’s best business schools. The Best 302 Business Schools surveyed 19,000 students in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and included two-page profiles of the best business schools in the country. A summary of Bauer highlights reported by students includes a strong academic focus on the energy industry, friendly students, a good peer network, cutting-edge classes and a great metropolitan setting. Students also lauded the high caliber of Bauer faculty, the value of non-classroom events like an annual Leadership and Ethics Week, and the level of support from the Rockwell Career Center and other UH Bauer resources.

Strategic Financial Group and parent company MassMutual have lent their name to the high visibility video wall in the lobby of Melcher Hall, now branded the Strategic Financial Group News Center. The plasma screens in the News Center display important announcements and news to the thousands of students who pass through the building each day. Representatives from Bauer College celebrated the partnership with leadership from SFG and MassMutual during a reception in September.
Bauer College re-launched its Distinguished Leaders Series in October with an energy focus. Sponsored by Sequent Energy Management, the DLS featured two of the country’s foremost energy experts as guest speakers — Gal Luft, the executive director of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security (IAGS) and John W. Somerhalder II, who is chairman, president and CEO of AGL Resources.

The Bauer College Alumni Association held several successful events over the fall semester, including its monthly breakfast networking series, sponsored by James E. Bashaw & Co., which hosted speakers including Houston Dynamo President and General Manager Oliver Luck, US Oncology President and CEO Bruce Broussard (MBA ’89) and Houston Texans President Jamey Rootes.

The BCAA also held its annual meeting in August, which boasted record-setting attendance along with presentations to honor the college’s Golden Cougars, a group of alumni who attended Bauer in the 1940s and 50s, along with outgoing Dean’s Executive Board chairman John McNabb and a group of employees from China National Petroleum Corporation who were in Houston to receive their Global Energy MBA degrees from Bauer.

► Supply chain senior Sean McFarlin was the recipient of the Joe W. Martin Scholarship Endowment. Joe Martin (’76), an alumnus of the UH chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity, awards the scholarship annually to a Sigma Chi member and Bauer student who maintains excellent grades and stays active in student organizations. This is McFarlin’s second year to receive the honor.

► Assistant Dean for Career Services at the Rockwell Career Center and longtime tri-athlete Jamie Belinne represented Team USA in the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Long Distance Triathlon World Championships in Perth, Australia. Belinne was invited to join Team USA 2009 after finishing Top Ten in her age group in a national championship triathlon last year. Teams from more than 20 countries traveled to Australia to compete in the race, and Belinne finished 36th in her age group world-wide.
Assistant Dean for Career Services Jamie Belinne crosses the finish line in Perth, Australia.
The 2009 University of Houston football season marked the launch of the Bauer Business Leaders Program, a joint effort between the UH Bauer College of Business and UH Football to connect student athletes with prominent Houston business leaders. Each Cougar home game featured two honorary guest sideline coaches who participated in all pre-game and game time activities.

Sideline coaches included Mike Linn, chairman and CEO of LINN Energy; Bradley Hutchinson, Barclays Capital management director of upstream coverage; Peter Tumminello, executive vice president of business development and support for Sequent Energy Management; C. Gregory Harper (MBA ‘97), senior vice president and group president of CenterPoint Energy Pipelines and Field Services; John T. McNabb II, Growth Capital Partners chairman; L.R. “Robin” French, FEC Holdings founder and co-owner; Randy Giles, CEO for UnitedHealthcare; Richard G. Rawson (BBA ‘72), president of Administaff and chairman of the UH Bauer Dean’s Executive Board; Jeff Allen, president and CEO of Integrity Financial Group; Gerald W. McElvy, president of ExxonMobil Foundation; Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia; and Robert Erwin (BS ’95), owner and president of Pi Studios.

Bauer students and alumni showed strong support for UH Athletics this year in what has been said to be the most remarkable season in Cougar football history. The Bauer College Alumni Association hosted droves of fans at the Bauer Pavilion while student organizations rallied for the Coogs during pre-game tailgating outside of Robertson Stadium.

Guest Sideline Coaches Went 6-0 For Cougar Football

HAVE AN ACCOLADE WORTHY ITEM? Please tell us about it and submit an email to Jessica Navarro at jnavarro@bauer.uh.edu or Chester Jacinto at cjacinto@uh.edu. Your accolade should include faculty name, title, and two or three sentences on the recognition or honor. We will then schedule a headshot of the noted faculty member for inclusion in Bauer Accolades.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the C. T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston is three-fold: to create and disseminate knowledge that improves the real world of business, to link that scholarly achievement to high-quality learning experiences for a diverse undergraduate and graduate student body, and to prepare our students for responsible business leadership worldwide.

The University of Houston is an EEO/AA institution.