

Accolades & More!

Distinction at the University of Houston
Bauer College of Business

Spring 2008

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.



Rabih Zeidan

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 Outstand-



Dr. Khumawala receiving plaque from Dr. Strickland

ing 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.



James Pratt

Also receiving awards were **Dr. Shiva Sivaramakrishnan**, Outstanding Service Award; **Dr. Ron Lazer**, Outstanding Teaching Award; and **Dr. George Drymiotis**, 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.



Christian Kuiate Sobngwi, Linda Luong, Marsha Dhingra, and Tom Chang

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.



Wynne Chin

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**.



DISC Chair Basheer Khumawala, left, Professor Jamison Day and a Target representative, right, with case competition winners

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.



Dennis Adams

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.



Ana Lucia Chaverria

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**.

Associate professor of finance **Guojun Wu** recently co-authored "Does Asymmetric Information Drive Capital Structure Decisions?" that is forthcoming in the *Review of Financial Studies*.

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."



Craig Pirrong

Professor **Craig Pirrong**, director of energy markets for the UH-Global Energy Management Institute, has two forthcoming publications, "The Price of Power: Pricing Power and Weather Derivatives," which will be published in *Journal of Banking and Finance*, and "Structural Models of Commodity Price Dynamics," which will appear in *Financial Risk Management In Commodity Markets*.

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 Math-

ematics 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.



Thomas George

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.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS



Robert Whitaker

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 Kremer** was Outstanding MS in Finance Student, **Marsha Dhingra** was Outstanding MS in Accountancy Student, and **Robert Wilson** was named Outstanding Executive MBA Student.



Bauer Alumni Association president Craig Rickard and Kristen Senechal

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-

calls Inc. The symposium included a panel discussion with **Metha Vasquez** ('91), HR director for Cameron International; **Diana Morales**, Executive Director and CEO of YWCA Greater Houston; **Rogene Calvert**, Director of Personnel and Volunteer Initiatives for the City of Houston Mayor's Office; and **Birgit Kamps** ('88), CEO of HireSynergy.

MANAGEMENT

Congratulations to assistant professor **Dusya Vera**, who has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Academy of Management Review*, the leading theoretical/conceptual journal in management.

Along with her co-author **Louise Ne-manich**, a doctoral alumna, Vera received an honorable mention at the 27th Annual International Conference of the Strategic Management Society for the paper "Building Improvisation Capability in R&D Teams."



Dusya Vera

Four management doctoral students had paper presentations accepted at this year's National Academy of Management Meetings in Anaheim, CA, in August. Congratulations to **Jeanna Abbott**, **Michael Banks**, **Marina Sebastijanovic**, **Susana Velez-Castrillon** and their faculty co-authors, **Teri Elkins**, **Dusya Vera**, **Richard DeFrank** and **William Zahn**.

MARKETING & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A paper by **Dr. Partha Krishnamurthy**, associate professor in marketing, and **Dr. Anish Nagpal**, a marketing alumnus, was featured in a *New York Times* article in January. The paper, "Attribute Conflict in Consumer Decision Making: The Role of Task Compatibility," was also in the February 2008 issue of the *Journal of Consumer Research*. This paper is based on a dissertation written by Nagpal and chaired by Krishnamurthy.

In addition, they also presented another co-authored paper, "The Impact of Goal Framing on the Choose-Reject Discrepancy," at the 2007 Association for Consumer Research in Memphis, Tennessee.



Jacqueline Kacen

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.



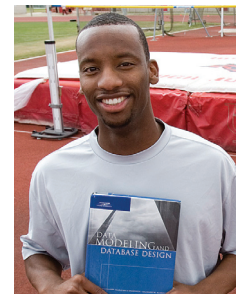
Brian Heitz and Matthew Clark

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.

BAUER BITS

Two Bauer students received prestigious athletic accomplishments recently. Management information systems senior **Ivan Diggs** was named the Conference USA Track and Field Male Athlete of the Year, and finance junior **Jake Ebner** was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District football team in 2007.



Ivan Diggs

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

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.



Sharon Lutz

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.



Niladri Syam

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 **Mar-ian Newman** serving as a past president.



Brent Spraggins

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.

HAVE AN ACCOLADE WORTHY ITEM?

Please tell us about it and submit an email to Jessica Robertson at jnrobertson@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 *Accolades & More!*