

Dear Alumni and Friends:

It has been a groundbreaking year for the VCU School of Business. Nearly 300 VCU supporters stood by on November 1 at the corner of Main and Belvidere Streets as we put shovels in the ground to begin construction on our new 144,000 square foot building.

Due to be completed in summer 2007, the Business School anchors the largest construction project in the history of Virginia Commonwealth University – the \$228 million Monroe Park Campus Addition.



Coming 2007: School of Business on Main Street



Breaking ground on November 1

Celebrating this milestone with so many alumni, government officials, faculty, students, and members of the business community emphasized to me just how far the School of Business has come by building on the talents and traditions of the men and women who helped create today's School. I am also keenly aware of our responsibility to be the best we can be for the individuals and companies that rely on VCU.

On the following pages, you will read about some of the wonderful accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni.

If you share my excitement, and you agree that the School is building something special on our traditions of hard work and excellence, I ask you to help us finish our Capital Campaign. Your support will allow VCU to continue providing **quality, relevant business education** for years to come.

We are 75% toward our goal of \$47 million. Universities are judged by alumni participation, and I would love to see us best our competition!

Please send in your gift to "VCU School of Business Foundation" P.O. Box 83042, Richmond VA, 23284-3042 or call us at (804) 828-1487 to discuss a payment plan, transfer of securities, or naming opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael".

Michael Sesnowitz, Dean



Drs. Ed Millner and E.G. Miller celebrate the groundbreaking

P.S. Stay in touch! I invite you to subscribe to eSUMMARY, our **brief** monthly email update for business alumni and friends, by sending your name and home email address to busalum@vcu.edu

VCU Continues Winning Streak

VCU has enjoyed worldwide recognition thanks to Team LiNK's victory at the Microsoft Imagine Cup software design competition. Comprised of two business students and one engineering student, Team LiNK went on from winning the national competition to represent the United States in the international competition in Japan, where they progressed through several rounds to finish in the top 13 in the world.

In November, the School of Business Economics Team, led by faculty advisor Dennis O'Toole, won first place in the annual Fed Challenge. The student team acted as a "shadow open market committee" and made their presentation to researchers at the Federal Reserve.



National Champions - Team LiNK

Up-to-date on current events and grounded in economic theory, the economics students beat nine other universities including the University of Virginia, James Madison, the University of Richmond, and Old Dominion. Our students recommended that the Fed stay the course and continue to follow Chairman Greenspan's current strategy.

Three students in VCU's Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) chapter won first place in the southeast regional HR Games sponsored by the national SHRM organization last spring. Alumnus David Coon, '84, served as MC for the competition, held at VCU. Marianne Miller advises the chapter.



SHRM Winners 2005

Williams-Sonoma Chairman Visits



Lester took time to chat with students after his presentation

On October 24, more than 300 students from the School of Business heard Howard Lester, Chairman of the Board of Williams-Sonoma, tell the story of his company's growth. Nearly 60 alumni, friends, and retail business owners joined Lester at a breakfast hosted by President Trani and Dick Robertson, '67. Later in the day, MBA students and faculty attended a Q&A session with Lester.

Business Students at Work

In 2004-2005, more than 200 business students enhanced local companies and their own resumes through our internship and co-op program. Other career building opportunities include the Business/Student Networking Reception, Career Fair, and partnerships between student clubs and professional organizations.



Fall 2005 Networking Reception

Save the Date – Business Alumni Reunion & Rams Basketball Game



Andy Keller '76, Barry Yaffe '70, and Floyd Lane '72 show their alumni pride at last year's reception

Saturday evening January 21 make plans to join School of Business faculty and alumni for a networking reception and reunion at the VCU Sports Medicine Building (next to the Siegel Center.)

Following the reception, watch VCU take on JMU in men's basketball. The Rams are picked to finish #2 in the very tough Colonial Athletic Conference.

Reservations are required. Reception and game are free - 2 tickets per alumnus. Cash bar will be available. Space is limited so please reserve early: Office of Development & Alumni Affairs at (804) 828-1485 or busalum@vcu.edu.

School of Business Foundation Formed

Steve Markel, vice chairman of Markel Corporation, led the team that created the VCU School of Business Foundation last May. The foundation is now accepting donations and will complete its transition to an independent 501c(3) entity by December 31.

To date, twenty prominent business men and women have been elected as trustees. The presidents of the School of Business Alumni Board and School of Business Council will also serve on the foundation. The trustees will act as ambassadors for the foundation, help shape the future of the school and provide counsel. Raising funds, investing and distributing them are key tasks of the foundation.

The School of Business Foundation holds more than \$12 million in endowed funds which were transferred from the VCU Foundation.

*Trustees' first meeting June 2006
(from top of stairs): Brent Halsey, Dixon Whitworth '69, Tom Snead '76, Bill Ginther '69 '74, Josée Covington, Allen King '77, Michael Sesnowitz (Dean), Steve Markel (Chair)*



In August, Ken Blaisdell joined us as Executive Director of the School of Business Foundation and Associate Dean for External Affairs. Dr. Blaisdell brings more than 25 years of experience in institutional fund raising. He has held senior development positions at Johns Hopkins, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Tufts and Partners HealthCare. He was founder and CEO of the first for-profit company to spin off from Johns Hopkins. He will oversee all foundation activities including development, marketing, communications and public relations.



Dr. Blaisdell

Faculty Research Increases

In 2004-2005, School of Business faculty produced a total of 439 scholarly contributions, an increase of 40% over the previous year. These include articles published in journals, books, and conference proceedings, as well as paper presentations.

Business Friends Strengthen Our Programs



*Markel Corporation Alumni (left to right):
Frankie Blevins '96, Stanley Davis '85,
Rebecca Anderson '90, Corey Clark '03*

On October 11 the School's Real Estate and Land Development program and its Virginia Real Estate Center sponsored the largest Real Estate Trends Conference to date, attracting over 700 participants to the Greater Richmond Convention Center. The program has grown to national recognition with the help and support of many real estate-related businesses.

Over the past year, companies across Richmond have hosted gatherings for alumni to learn more about our capital campaign. Our thanks go to SunTrust, Dominion, Circuit City, Genworth, Bank of America, Markel Corporation, Davenport, Media General, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Capital One, and Overnite for their warm welcome.

Moving Towards Our Vision

VCU School of Business continues to move closer to our vision of national recognition as the leading technologically-focused business school in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We are now enrolling students in a new Fast Track Executive Master of Science (FTEMS) program that focuses on Information Technology Management. Business leaders from the technology sector have been involved in curriculum development.



We continue to serve as a sponsor of the BioSciences Development Center at the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park. The Center operates as an incubator for start-ups and offers an opportunity for Fast Track Executive MBA student teams to help emerging companies.

Our undergraduate program in information systems was the first business school based IS program in the nation to be accredited by the Accrediting Board Engineering and Technology (ABET.)

2005 Alumni Star



*President Trani presents the
Alumni Star award
to Nancy Everett '78*

School of Business Foundation founding trustee, Nancy Everett, '78, recently named President and Chief Executive Officer, General Motors Asset Management, was honored as our 2005 Alumni Star. VCU recognized Nancy for her notable professional success, as well as her outstanding university and community service.

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