In Perspective

The current financial crisis hangs ominously over all of us. Who will survive and who will thrive during these uncertain times?

If you think for a moment about today’s most successful people and organizations, you realize there exists a simple yet elegant commonality between them – Innovation. Innovation is a hallmark of the individuals and companies who succeed despite the environment by adapting and acting flexibly to take advantage of opportunities even in a downturn.

Within our programs at The Paul Merage School of Business, we are dedicated to graduating business leaders with the exceptional ability to help grow their organizations through strategic innovation – supported by analytical decision-making, information technology and collaborative execution. These concepts are enhanced by our highly-personalized learning environment and are embodied in our powerful theme: 

**Innovation to shape the future; Personalization to shape you.**

As leaders of the world’s foremost companies grapple with how to sustain growth in the face of global innovation, the Merage School is enhancing its curriculum and surrounding students with world-class faculty and innovative business leaders. We continue to partner with the vibrant Orange County business community to create a platform for new leaders to launch powerful, successful business strategies. Together we are fostering an environment geared toward innovation, one that will transform our School, our students and our partners from “already excellent,” to “truly distinctive.”

Regards,

Andy

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Alumni Leadership Highlight

PAMELA M. ADAMS, ’98

Founding Chair, Dean’s Leadership Circle

“School doesn’t end when you walk out the door – your education has only begun,” said Pamela Adams, CFP, Financial Advisor, First Vice President and Investment Officer of a large national brokerage firm and alumna of The Paul Merage School of Business.

A true testament to this statement, Adams has continued to demonstrate success and growth both in her career and in her involvement with the Merage School. Besides serving as a mentor, joining the school’s Corporate Partners program and the alumni association, Adams is the Founding chair of one of the most influential programs on campus – The Dean’s Leadership Circle.

Where Do We Go From Here?

State Controller and Merage School Dean Predict Challenges Ahead for California and Orange County

Andy Policano, dean of The Paul Merage School of Business, and California State Controller John Chiang shared a challenging economic outlook with a sold out crowd during the Economic Outlook Revisited: Changing Strategies for Changing Times conference held at The Pacific Club in late July.

“We [the state] have taken the easy way out by borrowing and now that has come to roost,” said Chiang who stated his goal was to keep California from defaulting on its debt. “The worst thing that can happen is that the State would default,” said Chiang who is taking steps to try and avoid that outcome.

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Dean Andy Policano

John Chiang, CA State Controller
General Leon J. LaPorte ‘77 Sent Grads Off in Style

Merage School Alumnus General Leon J. LaPorte gave the 2009 commencement address at the Bren Events Center in June to a crowd of more than 3,000 people. Nearly 400 students received their MBAs this year along with a distinguished group of PhDs.

LaPorte, a retired four star General in the U.S. Army, earned his Masters of Science degree in Administration from UC Irvine in 1977. He is also a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. General LaPorte received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of Rhode Island, University of Maryland, and Pai Chai University. He was a Distinguished Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Peace Studies, Korea University.

General LaPorte currently serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LaPorte & Associates, LLC, an international business development company.

Prosperitas

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Costs So Much At The Movies); investment advisors (Paul McCulley, Managing Director, PIMCO; Michael Shedlock, author of Mish’s Global Economic Trend Analysis; John Mauldin, multiple NYT bestselling author and financial expert); political leaders & activists (Maajid Nawaz, founder of Quilliam, the world’s first counter-extremism think tank; Anne Korin and Gal Luft of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security; Dan Schnur, NYT political columnist, McCain campaign consultant, and USC professor; Steve Young, OC congressional candidate); scientists (Dr. Hans Kirstead, renowned stem cell researcher; Dr. Michael Prather, climate change research scientist), spiritual leaders (Dan Millman, author of The Way of the Peaceful Warrior; Dr. Roger Walsh, author of Essential Spirituality), and local and national business leaders (sports agent Leigh Steinberg; plastic surgeon Dr. Jay Calvert; commercial real estate investor Burton Young).

“The name Prosperitas is the Latin term for ‘hope’ and ‘success,’ and now more than ever it’s apparent that the secret to survival and success requires remaining focused and optimistic, informed and connected,” says Patrick.

For more information visit merage.uci.edu/go/prosperitas, or contact Mary Patrick at 510.260.6279 or email her at patrickm@uci.edu.

Merage on the Move

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After serving as the Director of our PhD Program for three years, Professor Alladi Venkatesh has decided to step down and is now taking a one-year sabbatical. Venkatesh has been a passionate and able leader of our PhD program. He has worked diligently to streamline many aspects of the program and has improved the time-to-graduation and placements. He worked with other academic units on campus, such as Department of Statistics, School of Social Sciences, and School of Social Ecology, to make it easier for our students to take courses in these units. Among his other initiatives, he started the Research Fest, a day-long event attended by Merage School alumni, faculty, students and community from other units on campus. Venkatesh’s service to our school has been exemplary.

Professor Robin Keller has agreed to be the new PhD Program Director, starting July 1, 2009, for a renewable two-year term. Keller received her PhD from UCLA and has been at UC Irvine since 1982. She is a renowned researcher in the area of Decision Analysis, and has served our School in a number of important roles, the last main one being as the Associate Dean for our Full-Time MBA program. She is enthusiastic and passionate about our PhD program, and has a great history of working with and helping our PhD students. She will play a leading role as our school continues to streamline and improve our PhD program.
Alumni Leadership Highlight

Continued from page 1

“Pam is very active with the Merage School. She’s been the most committed alumna we’ve had the entire nine years that I’ve been here,” said Sandra Findly, director of the Dean’s Leadership Circle. “She does so much that some people think she’s getting paid! We couldn’t have accomplished all we have without her.”

In 2005, Adams was asked by Andy Policano, dean of the Merage School, and Mitch Spann, senior director of development, if she would consider expanding her relationship with the Merage School. The dean was looking to develop a new business networking group to build connections with surrounding businesses and the community, and enhance the worldwide reach of the Merage School. Adams accepted the challenge and helped found what is today a highly successful fundraising organization and networking community.

“The DLC is the premier business network for executives in southern California and beyond. Members from diverse industries have a special interest in supporting management education while building stronger ties with each other. The DLC sponsors fundraising drives toward specific projects such as Endowed Professorships and dedicated classroom improvements.

In addition to her involvement in the DLC, Adams is also a founding member of the Merage School’s Center for Investment & Wealth Management. As a highly involved leader, Adams chairs the Center’s Community Programs Committee, responsible for quarterly conferences, most recently the Economic Outlook Revisited: Changing Strategies for Changing Times, a sold out event featuring California State Controller John Chiang and Dean Andy Policano.

“Establishing and continuing my involvement with the Merage School and the Dean’s Leadership Circle has been tremendously rewarding,” she said. “I encourage all Merage School students and alumni to stay connected with the school and continue to connect with peers around the globe. After all, we are all interdependent. It is a world economy and the only way we can grow is to seek to understand people, understand their cultures and continue to expand our world view.”