

Business School has First McGowan Scholar



The Business School has its first McGowan Scholar, and she has big plans to make the most of the prestigious honor.

Rebecca Lovell, a second-year MBA student from Seattle, has won the scholarship named after—and funded by—William G. McGowan, the late founder of MCI Communications and catalyst of 1980s telecommunications

deregulation. Each year, the McGowan Charitable Fund metes out scholarships to a select group of management students who exhibit extraordinary leadership, academic achievement, character, entrepreneurship and commitment to the community.

The scholarships were inspired by McGowan's own experience. A working-class kid from Pennsylvania's hardscrabble coal country, McGowan worked his way through college and eventually saved up enough to pay for a year of Harvard Business School. But he would have been forced to drop out had it not been for a scholarship that saved the day and paved the way for his industry-altering success and the philanthropy that followed. McGowan spent much of his later life giving back to communities that offered him opportunity.

Lovell hopes to emulate and even accelerate the payback. "I find McGowan's approach inspirational," she says.

A circuitous early career took her from a \$5 billion multinational company to a software provider to an executive placement firm to an international law firm to a non-profit social service organization. And whatever her initial position, she inevitably gravitated toward training and development. "It has always demanded the most of my passion and energy," Lovell says. "I've been chasing that piece ever since my career began."

With a McGowan proclivity for philanthropy, a decade of experience in training and development, and an entrepreneurial streak a mile wide, she took the next logical step: planning to start her own non-profit organization that would help prepare underprivileged women to enter the work force. But first she needed to enhance her financial

skill set. "I don't like asking people to do anything that I don't understand," she says. "I felt the UW MBA program would give me both the discipline and the credibility I needed to succeed."

The arrival of the McGowan Scholarship, which will cover nearly her entire tuition this year, is affording Lovell the fiscal liberation to embrace a wide array of extra-curricular activities in the MBA program and the greater civic community. She will co-chair the Challenge for Charity auction and serve as MBA Association vice president of internal student affairs, career counselor at the Business Connections Center, and leadership fellow to first-year study teams this fall. She's also been able to continue serving on a non-profit board and to take an internship with Rosehedge, an AIDS housing and health care organization, along with other civic endeavors.

"I feel that all UW MBAs, past and present, act as ambassadors to the greater Seattle civic community," she says. "And I take this role seriously. I do my best to represent the program in every capacity in which I serve, on and off campus."

Ultimately, Lovell believes the scholarship will help her fully pursue her non-profit dream, which is certainly a less lucrative aspiration than the typical MBA's, but would probably be okay in William McGowan's book.

"This scholarship is going to help me focus on what's important to me," Lovell says. "I don't have to take jobs outside of my interest. I can stay really focused."

"Every time I think about it I get this permanent smile. I'm so thrilled and honored."

New Scholarship Funds Hispanic MBA Students

The University of Washington has become one of the nation's only colleges to create an endowed scholarship for MBA students of Latin American heritage who pursue careers in business and economic development.

The \$150,000 Ernest I. J. Aguilar Endowed Scholarship—built entirely from private donations earmarked to promote diversity in the MBA population—honors a man who has dedicated significant time and effort toward the development of Hispanic communities within the state of Washington.

The scholarships will be awarded for the first time in the 2006-07 academic year to students of Latin American descent in the UW's MBA program. Recipients of the \$7,500 scholarship will work with the Business and Economic Development Program to grow Hispanic and Latino businesses in Washington state.