

## THINKING DIFFERENTLY. MAKING A DIFFERENCE.



A “convergence of excellence.” It’s a phrase I’ve used in recent conversations with alumni, business partners, media and others to describe what is taking place at the Michael G. Foster School of Business. We have incredible students in all of our programs. We have faculty members who are recognized for their influential scholarship and teaching skills.

And we have unparalleled support from our local business community and alumni.

This academic year marks a record for student success in case competitions. Indeed, Foster School students have won more competitions than we entered ten years ago. In January, a team of our MBAs won the first case competition ever hosted in China. Weeks later a Foster team went to the prestigious, invitation only, Wake Forest Marketing Case Competition and walked away victorious. And in April, a team of our first-year MBA students won the annual CIBER International Case Competition—for the second-consecutive year (see pg. 4). These are just a few examples of Foster students thinking strategically to address real-world challenges.

This academic year we’ve also witnessed numerous examples of faculty recognition for excellence in scholarship and thought leadership. The *Seattle Times* editorial board named Debra Glassman, a senior lecturer in business economics at the School, “one of ten people and institutions that have done the most to make the Puget Sound region a better place to live in 2007.” In February, Sonali K. Shah, assistant professor of management and organization, was named one of “five outstanding young researchers selected to receive a Sloan Industry Studies Fellowship on the basis of their exceptional promise to contribute to the field of industry studies, to the advancement of knowledge, and to U.S. industrial development and economic competitiveness.” And Tom Lee, associate dean for academic and faculty affairs, is serving as president of the Academy of Management, the premier organization for professors of management in the world (see Q&A on pg. 36).

Finally, in the fall issue of *Business*, we introduced our new name in conjunction with the wonderful gift from The Foster Foundation. Since that time, we have continued to receive incredible support for the School. To date more than \$175 million has been given by alumni, corporate partners and other supporters as part of our *Creating Futures* campaign.

One of the most thrilling examples of that generosity is a recent \$18 million gift from one of the Pacific Northwest’s most innovative and iconic companies: PACCAR Inc. The direct result of this extraordinary gift will be the creation of PACCAR Hall (see pg. 12), a 135,000-square-foot facility that will offer a combination of classrooms, faculty office space, an auditorium, student study areas and a boardroom. The gift will also establish two endowed professorships, furthering our ability to attract and retain outstanding faculty. PACCAR Inc’s investment exemplifies the positive relationships we’ve developed with our local business community and furthers my belief that we can become America’s top public business school.

And yet, to realize that vision requires everything I’ve mentioned above and more. To succeed requires that we differentiate ourselves from our competitors. Building on a dialogue with recruiters, business leaders and alumni, we recently undertook a comprehensive effort to identify the brand of the Michael G. Foster School of Business and plan for its development (see pg. 18). The result is a commitment to focus on leadership and strategic thinking, allowing us to deliver on the promise of *developing leaders who think differently and make a difference*. It’s a promise built on 90 years of history and is sure to be exemplified by all who graduate from our programs this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Jambalvo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**JAMES JAMBALVO**

*Dean, Michael G. Foster School of Business  
Kirby L. Cramer Chair in Business Administration*