

**Featured Articles:**

**Fall 2003 Issue**  
**University of Detroit Mercy College of Business Administration**

[Message from the Dean](#)

[C&F renovation enters final phase](#)

[AACSB to visit CBA](#)

[Alumni Board restructures for more involvement](#)

[Jacques Boettcher: 50 years of excellence](#)

[John Rakolta '53: Legacy of Achievement and Compassion](#)

[CBA expands its global focus](#)

[Institute addresses environmental and economic issues](#)

[Suk H. Kim honored with Distinguished Faculty Award](#)

[Cavanagh speaks, writes on Spirituality](#)

[New look for College web site](#)

[Student Notes](#)

[Giving to UDM](#)

[UDM News and Events](#)

[UDM Alumni News](#)

[Comments about the newsletter? E-mail us!](#)

**C&F renovation enters final phase**



The second and final phase of the renovation of the Commerce and Finance Building began right on schedule, with environmental abatement completed this past July and demolition commencing on September 29, 2003.

This phase of renovation involves a complete overhaul of the building's interior. In addition to new classrooms and faculty, administration and staff offices, this phase will include new alumni and college board rooms, a new student welcoming center, and a new student study center. [more...](#)

---

Welcome to *The Current*, a periodic web-based newsletter from the University of Detroit Mercy College of Business Administration. This "publication" is one example of our technology-enhanced efforts to communicate with alumni in the ways that will serve you best. This online communication will keep you informed about activities in the College, as well as what some of your fellow alumni are up to.

---

Other UDM Alumni Newsletters Online:  
[Healthy Times](#) (Health Professions)  
[The Highlighter & Laureate](#) (Liberal Arts and Education)  
[Impact](#) (Engineering and Science)  
[The Nautilus](#) (Architecture)

[UDM Alumni Home Page](#)

---



© University of Detroit Mercy. [UDM Mission Statement](#)  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

## Message from Dean Mirshab

The Current, Fall 2003

Prior to being appointed dean in 2002, Bahman Mirshab had been associate dean of Graduate Programs and Academic Affairs in the College of Business Administration since 1999. He has also served as the College's faculty program director for the Master of Science in Product Development and a faculty member in various capacities since 1979. Dean Mirshab holds a Ph.D. in economics from Wayne State University, a M.A. in economics from University of Detroit, and a B.A. in economics from Tehran University in Iran. His research and publications focus on Systems Dynamics, income tax, simulation, management science and information systems.



The College of Business Administration enjoyed a successful 2002-2003 academic year with many significant accomplishments and achievements, and we are looking forward to another in 2003-2004.

Our commitment to excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship was exhibited in many ways. The College awarded 286 graduate and undergraduate degrees last May. Plus, the College of Business Administration and the College of Engineering and Science jointly awarded 30 Master of Science in Product Development degrees to the third graduating class of the MPD program.

Our faculty remained committed to scholarship. Since January 2003, at least 17 faculty have published in refereed journals and at least 11 faculty have had refereed proceedings. In addition, faculty remained active in other scholarly activities such as conference presentations. The College of Business Administration was honored to have Professor of Business Administration Suk Kim as the recipient of the Faculty Excellence Award on October 17, 2003.

The College continued to receive regional and national recognition. The College co-sponsored, with the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants and the National Association of Black Accountants, the Accounting Careers Awareness Program (ACAP). ACAP is a national program created to increase the understanding of accounting and business career opportunities among selected high school minority youths. Thirty Detroit-area students participated in the on-campus program, June 15-19, 2003. The College's graduate programs were ranked by *Black Issues in Higher Education* magazine among the "top forty" programs in the nation for the number of African Americans awarded master's degrees in business and management.

The second phase of the Commerce & Finance Building renovation began in July 2003. This multi-million dollar comprehensive renovation project is expected to finish in August 2004, providing the College with a state-of-the-art teaching and learning facility.

Eight new members joined the College Advisory Board and Linda Miller '81, was elected as the chair. The Board of Advisors continued its active role in the College. William P. Young '90, was elected as the chair of the CBA Alumni Board; and many new members have joined this active group.

The College remained active in global education. Twenty-three students attended the graduate course offered in London, England. Together with Fu Jen Catholic University (Taiwan), the College has developed a joint Global Entrepreneurial Master in Business Administration Program (GEMBA) and we will also be cooperating with Tobias Karcher, S.J., of the Heinrich Pesch Haus Center for Applied Ethics. The College has continued its participation in the consortium of Jesuit schools offering the Beijing International MBA (BIMBA) program at Peking University, and we are proud to have Sharam Taj, professor of decision sciences, selected as one of the faculty to teach in this program next spring.

As we look to the future, the College of Business Administration remains committed to providing the excellent, student-centered, Catholic education that has produced generations of successful business leaders.



© University of Detroit Mercy. UDM Mission Statement  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

## C&F renovation enters final phase

The Current, Fall 2003

**Photo:** Renovation is expected to be completed by fall 2004.



The second and final phase of the renovation of the Commerce and Finance Building began right on schedule, with environmental abatement completed this past July and demolition commencing on September 29, 2003.

This phase of renovation involves a complete overhaul of the building's interior. In addition to new classrooms and faculty, administration and staff offices, this phase will include new alumni and college board rooms, a new student welcoming center, and a new student study center.

The renovation will also include two technology-enhanced classrooms, as well as two global learning centers featuring state-of-the-art audio, video and computer technologies. The renovation also includes an elevator and a new entrance equipped with handicap ramps.

Phase two also involves redecoration. A terracotta, cream and charcoal gray color scheme was developed with the architects, TMP Associates, Inc., to give the new interior a cohesive look and friendly atmosphere.

Phase one of the building restoration was completed in October 2000 and involved window replacement, roof repairs, and the cleaning and repair of the building's exterior sand stone veneer.

The restoration is on track for completion in August 2004. Faculty and staff have settled into their temporary offices in Lansing-Reilly Hall, where they will remain for the duration of the work.

"In the fall of 2004, our students will return to a brand new, totally modern environment," says Dean Bahman Mirshab. With the newly renovated building, "the College will continue to provide quality business education based on ethics attuned to the times."

For more pictures of the renovation, visit the CBA [web site](#) and click on the link under Phase II renovation.



© University of Detroit Mercy. UDM Mission Statement  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

### AACSB to visit CBA

---

The Current, Fall 2003

---



In preparation for reaffirmation of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) accreditation, the College completed its three-volume self-evaluation report in July 2003. The visitation dates for the AACSB peer review team are February 8-11, 2004. The College looks forward to maintaining its status as the only nationally accredited business program among Michigan's private colleges and universities.



© University of Detroit Mercy. UDM Mission Statement  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

## Alumni Board restructures for more involvement

The Current, Fall 2003



The College's Alumni Board has always participated in College activities, notably Alumni Week, but now its members want to expand their support. To this end, the Board recently restructured into four committees — Alumni Week, Recruitment, Student Liaison, Executive Committee — to facilitate College objectives. A member of the executive committee leads each of the other committees.

Says William Patrick Young '90, president of the CBA Alumni Board, "The Student Liaison Committee is a new committee this year and is working diligently to assess the needs of CBA students and develop ways to help meet those needs. We are definitely looking forward to more interaction with students."

Members of the Recruitment Committee will be assisting the dean in promoting CBA programs, particularly the MBA program, and they hope to volunteer at area high schools to get the word out to prospective students.

Young adds that he is looking forward to seeing all CBA alumni at this year's Alumni Week to be held March 22-26, 2004. "It will be the best yet—until next year," says Young. "We are building on a good four-year tradition. We also have good continuity with the past Alumni Board President Joe Berkowski '73, heading it up."

If you are interested in participating on any of these boards, please e-mail [UDMgrad@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMgrad@udmercy.edu).

The Alumni Board is structured as follows:

### Executive Committee

Joe Berkowski '73  
Bahman Mirshab '75  
Ann Morgan '99  
Teresa Soave '96, '98  
William Patrick Young '90

### Alumni Week Committee

Joe Berkowski '73  
Jim Kirby '92  
Phil Kapanowski '85  
David Fitch '79, '83  
Doug Kaczmarek '87  
Stan Dobby '78, '81  
Dan Assenmacher '00  
Jonathan Sanders '02

### Recruitment Committee

Ann Morgan '99  
Mike McBride '99  
Kevin White '91, '93  
Ramona Pearson '98  
Jennifer Schneider '94, '96  
Jim Kirby '92  
Thomas Kenny '89, '95  
Jonathan Sanders '02  
Constance Tatum '91, '95  
Alicia Roberts '01

### Student Liaison Committee

Dan Assenmacher '00  
Teresa Soave '96, '98  
Ken Faber '62  
Pius Oleh '96  
Karen Van Antwerp '90, '96  
Jonathan Sanders '02  
Jennifer Schneider '94 '96 '00

### Members at large

Domenic Mammarella '00  
Keith Rohland '01



© University of Detroit Mercy. UDM Mission Statement  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

## Jacques Boettcher: 50 years of excellence

The Current, Fall 2003

Photo: Dean Bahman Mirshab and Jaques Boettcher



Jacques Boettcher '51, '72, associate professor of Business, will enter his 50th year of teaching in 2004. A recognition ceremony was held at the beginning of the school year to commemorate Boettcher's commitment to the University and the College.

Says Dean Bahman Mirshab, "Jack has always been there when we needed him; his loyalty is demonstrated by his 50 years of service. He always pursues excellence and expects the same from his students. I am proud to say he has always been a mentor to me. His wealth of experience is an immense help. We hope he will be here for many years to come."

Boettcher teaches law and real estate finance. His area of expertise is foreign trade law, specifically the comparative law of the Pacific Rim countries, especially China and Japan. He is also concerned with the legal and financial perils for American companies investing in emerging third world areas.

A practicing attorney and member of the State Bar of Michigan, Boettcher earned his Ph.B., M.A. and J.D. from the University of Detroit.



© [University of Detroit Mercy](#) [UDM Mission Statement](#)  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

## John Rakolta '53: Legacy of Achievement and Compassion

The Current, Fall 2003

RETURN TO  
THE  
CURRENT



By any measure, John S. Rakolta was successful both materially and spiritually. As chairman emeritus at Walbridge Aldinger Company, a worldwide construction management firm, he had worked his way up from timekeeper to chairman and chief executive, guiding the company to become one of the largest of its kind in the nation. Yet he never forgot the lean years preceding his success or his Romanian roots. Rakolta passed away in September 2003, but his son, John Rakolta, Jr., recalls his father's legacy of achievement and compassion.

The eldest son of Romanian immigrants who never finished high school, John Rakolta was encouraged by his father to obtain the highest education he could. World War II intervened after he graduated from Pershing High School, and Rakolta enlisted, becoming a bombardier-navigator in the Army Air Corps. Injured when his plane was shot down over Germany, he was a prisoner of war until 1945. He was awarded an Air Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters for his actions. When he returned to Detroit, he married and attended the University of Detroit Commerce and Finance Evening College, graduating in 1953.

Says son John, "I know my father felt that without his degree he would not have had the same opportunities in life. Getting the degree was very difficult for him. At the time, he was working a full-time job, raising three children and taking nearly a full course load. He would leave work to attend classes during the day." He adds, "John Sagan was his favorite professor. My father respected and thought very highly of him."

Rakolta became partial owner of Walbridge in the early 1950s and accumulated holdings until he became sole owner (and chairman and chief executive) in 1970. Under his guidance, the company became one of the largest construction management firms in the country, handling jobs worldwide. Among Walbridge's notable projects are the DaimlerChrysler Technology Center, the Nissan Research and Development Center, the One Detroit Center Tower, the Rouge Steel Hot Strip Mill, and the recently completed Compuware headquarters in downtown Detroit. Described by his son as "a tireless worker," Rakolta retired in 1993, but remained involved with company operations until his death.

Rakolta felt a strong tie to Romania and much of his charitable efforts were directed toward supporting Romanian-American churches and organizations. He also supported Focus Hope, New Detroit, the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, the Northwest Detroit Activities Center, Boy Scouts of America and Junior Achievement. On a personal level, Rakolta remembered the help he had received during college and routinely supported many individuals both in the U.S. and Romania. Rakolta Jr. recalls a recent example: An elderly relative in Romania was about to lose her apartment. Says the younger Rakolta, "He didn't think twice, he just wrote her a check. He believed in sharing his good fortune with others.... He believed in possibilities, and worked hard to make them become realities for himself and for many others." He passed this love for Romania to his son, who has been the honorary consul general of Romania in Detroit since 1999.

In addition to his commercial and charitable work, Rakolta was an antique car collector, and an avid golfer—once winning the Amateur Team Championship at the Bob Hope Chrysler Gold Classic. His interest also included horse racing. He was part owner of two Kentucky Derby contenders, most recently Ten Most Wanted, who finished a close second in the 2003 Belmont Stakes and won the 2003 Traverse Stakes at Saratoga.

Most of all, says his son, Rakolta was known for "giving 100 percent to everything and anything he did...he did the little things with the same gusto as the big things" and also for always looking ahead, says his son. "He would often say, 'I can't do anything to change the past, however I can have great influence on the future.'"

RETURN TO  
THE  
CURRENT



© University of Detroit Mercy. UDM Mission Statement  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu

**CBA expands its global focus**

The Current, Fall 2003

**Photo (top):** Alan Reed, from the British Standards Institute, leads the information security class held on the Downtown Campus in October.

**Photo (bottom):** CBA students and faculty take a break to enjoy the sights of Cambridge University. Twenty-three students attended courses on global supply chain management and information security management offered in London, England in the summer.



With global understanding becoming crucial to success, the College of Business Administration continues its commitment to international study and involvement.

In October, the College hosted a week-long certification class sponsored by the British Standards Institute (BSI). Students received internationally registered certification as lead auditors in the ISO 17799 standard for information security. This standard is the single worldwide basis for establishing and accrediting information security management systems for organizations. BSI is the national standards body of Great Britain and the College is its longest-standing academic affiliate in the U.S.



Twenty-three students attended courses on global supply chain management and information security management offered in London, England in the summer of 2003. Led by Professors Shahram Taj and David Huff, the students stayed and studied at Imperial College, attended presentations by the British Standards Institute and Sapphire Technologies Ltd., and visited Southbank College.



Together with Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan, the world's largest Catholic university, the College of Business Administration has developed a joint Global Entrepreneurial Master in Business Administration Program (GEMBA). The two-week intensive program will be taught in both Taiwan and the United States.

Beginning Summer 2004, the College will partner with Tobias Karcher, S.J., to offer programs at the Heinrich Pesch Haus Center for Applied Ethics in Ludwigshafen, Germany.



© University of Detroit Mercy. UDM Mission Statement  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu

**Institute addresses  
environmental and economic  
issues**

---

The Current, Fall 2003

---

RETURN TO  
THE  
CURRENT

On November 19, [The Institute for Building Sustainable Communities](#), under the direction of CBA Professor Mike Whitty, hosted former Attorney General of Michigan Frank Kelley (LAW '57), and Julie Metty Bennett, senior consultant for Natural Resources at Public Sector Consultants Inc., who are respectively co-chair and consultant to the Governor's Michigan Land Use Leadership Council. Kelley and Bennett presented the findings of the Council as well as taking part in a discussion on the environmental and economic challenges facing Michigan.

The Council was formed in February 2003 to address the trends, causes and consequences of unmanaged growth and development in Michigan. In August 2003, the Council provided its recommendations to minimize the impact of current land use trends on Michigan's environment and economy. For more information on the Council, please visit their [web site](#).

---

RETURN TO  
THE  
CURRENT



© University of Detroit Mercy. [UDM Mission Statement](#)  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

## Suk H. Kim honored with Distinguished Faculty Award

The Current, Fall 2003

---



Each year, the faculty selects one to three of their peers to receive University Faculty Excellence Awards. These individuals are selected because they possess the qualities and skills that best exemplify the body of faculty at University of Detroit Mercy. Qualities include excellence in teaching and scholarly endeavors; service to others; and active involvement in the University, their profession, and their community. They also engage in personal and professional activities that express the University mission.

Suk H. Kim, professor and discipline coordinator of Finance and International Business in the College of Business Administration, received the Distinguished Faculty Award at an October 17 reception. Gail M. Presbey, associate professor of Philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Education, received the Faculty Achievement Award.

Says Kim, "I feel so honored to win this prestigious award. I think this really does mean that the U.S. is the place where anyone has the chance to accomplish anything. Winning this award is my proudest accomplishment."

[Read more about Suk H. Kim](#)



© University of Detroit Mercy. [UDM Mission Statement](#)  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

**Cavanagh speaks, writes on  
Spirituality**

---

The Current, Fall 2003

---



Gerald Cavanagh, S.J., Charles T. Fisher III Chair of Business Ethics and professor of Business Administration, along with Mark Bandsuch, S.J., former college minister of Business Administration, presented the paper "Managing Workplace Spirituality: Cultivating the Call to Holiness in Corporate Culture" at the fifth annual conference of Catholic Social Thought and Management Education at the Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao, Spain in July. While in Spain, Cavanagh and Bandsuch also visited the Jesuit sites of Manresa, Montserrat, Loyola, and Xavier. In addition, Cavanagh's paper, "Religion and Spirituality in Business: Obstacles and Opportunities," was published in Business, Religion, and Spirituality. Cavanagh also spoke to 80 chief executives who are members of the Archdiocese of Detroit Cardinal's Club on "Application of Christian Values in Our Business Lives Today" in May, and he gave the luncheon address, "Business Ethics in a Global Economy," at the Cleveland Case Alumni Reunion in June.



© University of Detroit Mercy. [UDM Mission Statement](#)  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

**New look for College web site**

The Current, Fall 2003

---



The College of Business Administration has transformed the look of its [web site](#). The new format is now consistent with the University's web design, which was implemented last February. Program content and information about College activities have also been updated. An important feature includes a link to information and images regarding the progress on the renovation of the Commerce & Finance Building.



© University of Detroit Mercy. [UDM Mission Statement](#)  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

## Student Notes

---

The Current, Fall 2003

---

**Photo:** The annual Dean's Dogs cookout was held on October 9, 2003.



On Wednesday, September 17, 2003, the Marketing and Sales Executives of Detroit (MSED) recognized five college students for excellence in the study of Marketing and presented each of them with a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. Two UDM students were among the five recipients honored: Gabriela Hinojosa and Kenneth J. Muller, both seniors majoring in Business.

---

The tradition of Dean's Dogs, the annual CBA cookout, continued. This year's event was held on October 9 with approximately 100 people in attendance. The event, which was co-sponsored by the College and the CBA Student Advisory Board, allows new and returning students, staff and faculty of the College to socialize and get reacquainted after the summer. This year's chefs included Jacqueline Bell, assistant to the director of graduate programs, and Wendy Marshall, assistant to the undergraduate office.

---



The Beta Gamma Sigma Student Leadership Forum was held in Baltimore, Maryland from October 30 through November 2. Attendance at the Forum is limited to 75 students, each of whom must be a member of Beta Gamma Sigma (the National Honorary Society for students in Business) and each of whom must be nominated by their school's chapter. In addition to participating in an outstanding program for future business leaders, attendees have the opportunity to compete for a \$2,500 Leadership Award. Senior Dominic Paluzzi, who was one of the six finalists for the Leadership Award, represented UDM at the conference. He was awarded a \$250 check.

---

2004 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the UDM chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the national accounting honor society. Look for forthcoming information on recognition activities this year.

---



© University of Detroit Mercy. [UDM Mission Statement](#)  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)

## How to Make a Gift to the University of Detroit Mercy

---

The Current, Fall 2003



Generous [contributions from alumni and friends](#) of the University of Detroit Mercy support The Fund for UDM, strengthen the University's outstanding scholarship program, renovate facilities, and enhance academic programming.

All gifts – regardless of their size – help ensure the continuing quality of a University of Detroit Mercy education. Your gift supports the project of your choice. A gift to The Fund for UDM provides the University with flexibility to use your contribution for high priority activities. If you want to restrict your gift to a specific college, school or program, please indicate your intent when you make your contribution.

[More information](#) about giving can be found on our University web site.



© University of Detroit Mercy. [UDM Mission Statement](#)  
4001 W. McNichols Rd., PO Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900  
[UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu](mailto:UDMGRAD@udmercy.edu)