From students with dreams to community leaders, Bloch students are

SHAPING THE FUTURE
Shape the Future

At the Bloch School, we live by the creed that innovation is essential. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our programs, link to the Kansas City region in creative ways and recruit high-caliber faculty, staff and students. The dynamic global market for which we are preparing our students demands that we embrace innovation. In an oft-cited remark, Jack Welch, former chairman and CEO of General Electric, said "When the rate of change inside an institution becomes slower than the rate of change outside, the end is in sight. The only question is when."

At the Bloch School, we are never still. We are always looking for new ways to shape the future. Each story in this issue highlights examples of the current impact of the Bloch School and some of our plans for the future: former Bloch students who are now successful alumni making their mark; current Bloch students who are finding inspiration as they prepare to make their mark; students yet to come and how Bloch is preparing today to educate tomorrow’s business and community leaders; and community connection – building and developing symbiotic relationships with the community. All are pieces of a big picture, and that is the success of our school, our students and our city.

I hope you enjoy learning more about the Bloch School and discover innovative ways that we can work together. I hope to hear from you personally and welcome your ideas.

Warmest regards,

O. Homer Erickson
They were once Bloch students with hopes, goals and plans to improve themselves, the organizations and the communities they serve. Today, they are movers, shakers and role models. The alumni featured in this story are just a few examples of the great leaders Bloch is proud to call our own and prime examples of individuals who have shaped the future of Kansas City and beyond.

STEVE BERNSTEIN: HEADING FOR HOME
Steve Bernstein, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Bernstein-Rein Advertising, has been awarded the Alumni Spotlight Award for bringing creativity and opportunity to UMKC and Kansas City's communities.

“We aren’t the guys who were born on second base and believe they hit a double,” Bernstein is fond of saying about growing up in the shadow of the largest ad agency in Kansas City and the 36th-largest full-service ad agency in the country. Bernstein-Rein Advertising was co-founded by his father, Bob Bernstein, in 1964.

“We know we were born on second base, and we’re thankful for the opportunities we have, but we realize there are still two more bases to clear before we score,” Bernstein literally grew up in advertising, playing with the copy machine in his dad’s office, studying commercials during Super Bowls, and serving, at the age of 10, as the inspiration behind one of Bernstein-Rein’s marketing coups, the McDonald’s Happy Meal.

In some ways, the family business was Bernstein’s destiny. “We were never told, ‘You’ll be in the family business,’” he says of himself, brother David and sister Susan. “But we’re such a close family that it became natural for each one of us.”

Bernstein’s interests in law and business led him to choose the Law and Bloch schools at UMKC, where he earned his JD and MBA in 1991. He joined the family business in 1992.

However, Bernstein sees more in his choice than fulfilling a prophecy. He sees advertising as his legacy.

“We’re fortunate to be in a business that produces the exact things not-for-profits need—marketing advice and direction,” he says. “As a company, we try to give feedback to the community that has been so great to us. We want to do our parts as an agency and a family to help Kansas City be the best it can possibly be.”

Bernstein has offered his talents, free of charge, to UMKC and the community countless times, including helping the University roll out a new brand identity and marketing campaign in 2005.

Today, Bernstein is busy as senior vice president and chief operating officer of the 300-plus-employee agency, but he is as committed as ever to the future of Kansas City.

“Everything is spurred by ideas,” he adds. “It’s important that Kansas City is a place that can foster, nourish and actually feed great ideas, culture and business.” Bernstein may still have things to do before he slides into home, but it’s a safe bet he’ll take Kansas City with him as he rounds the bases.

THE BLOCH FAMILY: KANSAS CITY’S LEGACY
The Bloch family was recently honored with the UMKC Alumni Legacy award for the lasting impact they have left on Kansas City and the world.

From the new H&R Block headquarters downtown to the new Bloch building at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Bloch family has left a lasting legacy in Kansas City.

“My family has always cared a great deal about Kansas City,” says Tom Bloch, UMKC Trustee. “It’s always been a priority to us to give back, to help make this a great city.”

The family has supported cancer research, health services, the arts, community development and education, lending their time and support to the Leon E. Bloch Law Library, the Bloch School, the Institute of Urban Education at the School of Education and the UMKC Trustees.

“Kansas City cannot be a great city without a great urban university,” adds Bloch.

All told, the Bloch family has put in more than 100 years of service and millions of dollars to help Kansas City thrive. And for that reason, they were awarded the 2006 Legacy Award from UMKC. The award recognizes families who have a record of outstanding service to the University and the community.

The legacy started with Leon Bloch Sr., who was a 1902 graduate of the University of Kansas City Law School. He and his wife Hortense carried that sentiment to their own family, encouraging their four children, David and sister Susan. “But we’re such a close family that it became natural for each one of us.”

Henry and his wife Marion have carried that sentiment to their own family, encouraging their four children, Robert, Tom, Mary Jo Browne and Liz Uhlmann, to leave legacies of their own.

“Our parents instilled in us the importance of giving back,” says Tom. “We all had great opportunities in our life, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to our parents and to our community.”

Tom is forging his legacy through education. In 1991, he resigned his position as president and CEO of H&R Block to teach, first at St. Francis Xavier School and currently at University Academy, a charter school sponsored by UMKC. He was co-founded in 2000. He serves with his sister Liz’s husband, Paul Uhlmann, on the UMKC Board of Trustees. “That’s the kind of philosophy my parents reinforced.”

In honor of their mother, the Bloch children recently dedicated the Marion Helberg Bloch Park and Terrace, a landscaped garden and meeting place for students, faculty and staff on the south lawn of the Bloch School.

“Giving back is such an important part of life,” says Tom. “True happiness comes from not just looking at yourself, but in looking at how you can help others.”

Steve Bernstein: Tom, Mary Jo Browne and Liz Uhlmann, to leave legacies of their own. “Our parents instilled in us the importance of giving back,” says Tom. “We all had great opportunities in our life, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to our parents and to our community.”

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MELANIE TUCKER: BEYOND THE BALANCE SHEET Melanie Tucker, vice president of finance for JE Dunn Construction, has taken a knack for numbers and passion for people and turned them into an inspiring story.

“There’s always a footprint left when you build something,” says Melanie Tucker, speaking of the physical legacy she’ll help Kansas City’s JE Dunn. The sixth-largest general contractor in the United States, leave behind.

“Women are historically underrepresented in executive management positions,” Tucker says. “I hope I can serve as a role model for other women in those roles, as well as in the construction industry.”

Tucker sees more than numbers on a balance sheet, though. “Numbers tell a story,” she says. “Accounting and finance are really about the ability to get information out of numbers and data, to use that information to make decisions and to educate people about what the numbers say.”

Tucker doesn’t leave the story strictly to the numbers, or the footnote—she’s a true “connector,” someone with a gift for bringing together people and ideas. Through the Bloch Alumni Board, Tucker met Tom Holcom, a founding member of Angel Flight, a nonprofit organization that arranges free transportation for people who need medical treatment.

Tucker also serves on the board of Youth Volunteer Corps of America, a national nonprofit that helps youth volunteers find and conduct community service projects. “I want to stay involved with what’s going on in this community,” Tucker says. “I’m fortunate to work for a company that has recommitted to being downtown by building its new headquarters here. I’m in the right place to be a part of Kansas City’s future, and I look forward to it.”

DICK GIBSON: LEADING BY EXAMPLE Dick Gibson, vice president and chief administrative officer at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, is a role model in leadership and service. He recently earned the Alumni Achievement Award for his accomplishments and service to the Bloch School.

Dick Gibson’s office at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce is part scrapbook, part resume. His bookcase displays an assortment of photographs—one of Bobby Kennedy, a group shot of Presidents Nixon, Bush, Reagan, Carter and Ford, and another of Gibson shaking hands with Colin Powell, one of his former bosses. His desk holds Chinese meditation balls, a portable punching bag, a Dick Gibson bubble head and numerous photographs of his three grandchildren.

From music major to colonel in chief administration, Gibson’s career, like his office, is rich in diverse experiences that have helped shape him into the leader he is today. Gibson graduated from UMKC’s Conservatory of Music and Dance in 1967. Just as he was preparing for his first New York audition, he received his draft notice. He put music on hold to enlist, and, in 1969, entered Vietnam as a second lieutenant. When he completed his tour a year later, Gibson was offered the rank of captain if he would stay one more year. With the support of his wife, Riie, Gibson accepted.

Gibson says he enjoyed military life. “I always say that I stayed in the army because I was the only one who could count to four in time and sing cadences in harmony,” he laughs. His final military assignment was as the chief of staff for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Colonel Gibson retired from the army in 1993 with a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and “V” (valour) device and Silver Star.

Gibson launched his second career in corporate America as director of administration at the Don Bosco Community Centers in Kansas City and in 1997 became vice president and chief administrative officer at the Chamber.

“I learned what I know about business from the school of hard knocks,” says Gibson of his military experience. “I want to see that learning with a degree.” In 2000, Gibson enrolled in the Bloch School’s Executive MBA program on the G.I. Bill.

“The Executive MBA provided an opportunity to broaden my perspective, network with other business professionals and get more involved in the community.”

Gibson took that network to heart. After he graduated from the program in 2002, he started an investment club with fellow alumni, served on the Don Bosco Social Enterprise Board and was a key player in the business plan EMBA students wrote for the TAKE Foundation defense training program for women.

One of Gibson’s greatest gifts to the people and communities he works with is that of example. Throughout his service to the Chamber and the community, Gibson has brought lessons from his military career—the necessity of making contingency plans and leading by example.

“If I’m not putting in my best effort, then I can hardly expect my people to,” he says. “It’s that simple.”

CHARLENE MEEKER: CONNECTING PEOPLE, BUILDING COMMUNITIES Charlene Meeker, public relations consultant with MGA Communications in Denver, passes prouide and courage will take you places.

If you’ve read Malcolm Gladwell’s Tipping Point, you’ll recognize Charlene Meeker immediately. She’s a “connector,” someone with a gift for bringing different worlds together. "I strongly believe in the significance of relationships," says Meeker. "I thrive on being a catalyst for connecting others with the people and resources that help them achieve their goals.”

Meeker earned her MBA at the Bloch School’s Cookingham Institute of Public Affairs in 2004, where she found a passion for the world of community development. “It was my second semester, and I enrolled in the Executive MBA program in the G.I. Bill.”

“Chamber, business from the school of hard knocks,” says Gibson of his military experience. “I want to see that learning with a degree.” In 2000, Gibson enrolled in the Bloch School’s Executive MBA program on the G.I. Bill.

“Since I started working with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), where she did research, public relations and also worked on the award-winning First Suburbs Coalition Idea Book, a remodeling guide for post-World War II homes, But Meeker is one alumna Kansas City will have to live without. She took her affinity for development west. “I became intrigued with Denver,” Meeker explains. “I liked where it was going, and how progressively they approached housing, transportation and economic development.”

Eager to become part of the exciting developments in Denver, Meeker made a bold move there, without a solid job prospect. For months, Meeker searched for a way to bring the worlds she’d inhabited together. In 2005, she joined the Mile High Housing Fund, a community development financial institution. They created a position for her as director of public relations and development, which married her passions and introduced her to yet another world: nonprofit management.

"I was impressed with her grasp of the nuances of finance, the political landscape, the relationships in the community among different players,” says Rodger Harra, vice president of CapitalMark Finance, whom Meeker met through the Fund. Harra was so impressed, he nominated Meeker for the Denver Community Leadership Forum, a yearlong program run by the University of Colorado’s Center for Public-Private Sector Cooperation. Each year since 1984, the program has handpicked 30 community leaders—10 each from the public, private and nonprofit sectors—to discuss Denver’s big issues and what leadership should look like surrounding them issues.

“As UMKC and Kansas City strive to reach their potential, you always find Bloch School alumni making a difference.”

— O. Homer Erickson, Bloch School dean
The product is greater than the sum of its parts at the Enterprise Development Lab, which trains and launches entrepreneurial talent into Kansas City and the world.

On April 22, 2006, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation conference room was filled with 55 graduate students from the Bloch School, 40 judges from Kansas City's leading corporations, banks and non-profit business development organizations and 12 intellectual properties.

For eight hours, the conference room transformed into a working laboratory for enterprise development and hosted the second annual New Venture Challenge Competition—bursting with innovative ideas from singing greeting cards to male contraceptives.

LEARNING BY DOING

Sponsored by the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at UMKC, last year's New Venture Challenge Competition was the climax to four months of business planning by the Bloch School's Executive MBA and MBA students.

At the beginning of the winter semester, students divided into 12 teams. Each team selected from 34 intellectual properties representing Midwest Research Institute, Hallmark, Kansas University Medical Center, iCumm, Mobile Media Technologies, LLC, BOC Group, Jay Fine and Brown Medical Industries.

The student teams assessed their outgrowth of the Institute's larger efforts to bridge business, technology and education. The competition joins the Institute's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Boot Camp, Executives in Residence and student business incubator to form the Enterprise Development Laboratory (ED Lab). "The ED Lab for the Bloch School is much like a chemistry lab for a chemistry course," explains Larry Lee, director of the Enterprise Development Lab. "For us, though, looking under a microscope isn't enough. To understand a business, you have to run a business."

The student teams attracted interest from serious investors for their companies' products or services.

EXPERIMENTAL BUSINESS

The annual New Venture Challenge Competition is just one outgrowth of the Institute's larger efforts to bridge business, technology and education. The competition joins the Institute's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Boot Camp, Executives in Residence and student business incubator to form the Enterprise Development Laboratory (ED Lab).

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Integrated with and an extension of the entrepreneurship curriculum, the ED Lab gives students hands-on, real-time experience with the tools and frustration that come from turning ideas into market-ready businesses.

Ideas come from University of Missouri research centers, Kansas City research organizations, local corporations or the students themselves. The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Boot Camp, for example, is a four-week competition that allows students to test the viability of their business ideas.

After those innovations are vetted by Institute faculty and advisers, student teams begin to develop business concepts. Experts-in-residence, a pool of about 160 attorneys, bankers, angel investors, engineers—"people who fit almost every need," says Lee—mentor students throughout the process.

Students, advisers and investors evaluate the final business concepts. "When those concepts come out of the hopper, there are three options," says Lee. "If it's not a viable business, it may stop right there. Or, the concept could turn into an actual start-up, ready to go out on the street. Or, if it needs a little nurturing and support, then it could move to the student business incubator."

The incubator helps students jump-start their businesses by providing them with the physical space, expertise and support they need to make their ideas a reality.

"Before he could receive the second phase, $1.3 million, however, he needed a prototype and a business plan. Larry Lee, director of the Enterprise Development Lab, guided Curry through incorporation, how to set up bookkeeping and find an accountant, how to write a business plan and put him in touch with a partner. First International in Lenexa, Kan., to build the prototype."

"The prototype, people like me can have face-to-face conversations with their doctors, their bosses—their families, without scraps of paper or interpreters. For many of them, it will be a first," says Curry. Thanks to the Curry's entrepreneurial spirit and the Institute's resources, a new business has blossomed that will open the doors of communication for more than 27 million Americans.
Entrepreneur Development Laboratory

space, office equipment and mentoring they need to get their businesses off the ground. The Institute is also working on creating a Seed Venture Capital Fund that will give students access to capital “when they need it in the most, at the very beginning,” says Lee.

Growing Ideas, Growing Businesses

“Our goal,” says Lee, “is to give students more than a diploma. It’s one thing to start a business in your mind or on paper. It’s quite another to have real people working for you, bills that have to be paid and the mountain of things that have to be done in a business. You learn how to prioritize or how to let go. You learn about yourself.”

And the seeds those students plant ultimately feed the community with new businesses and a new understanding of entrepreneurship. To create a lasting view of enterprise development, Institute faculty are conducting longitudinal studies on the businesses that leave the lab, helping enrich the research on entrepreneurship and high-growth ventures for Kansas City and the world business community.

“That speaks to our sustainability and impact,” says Song. “Imagine, year after year, 30 teams of future entrepreneurs in a city looking for business ideas, developing business models, creating new companies. Every single year. Just imagine the possibilities.”

Minding Business

PhD in Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Why do businesses fail? Better yet, how do they succeed? These questions form the foundation of entrepreneurial research. According to the Kauflman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity, activity in the past few years has climbed to levels that surpass the late 1990s Internet boom.

Fertile Ground

This fall the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Bloch School is launching the PhD program in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The four-year, interdisciplinary program will create the next generation of leading-edge researchers and teachers of entrepreneurship. For doctoral students from other disciplines, the Institute provides a co-director and a minor so that students can add an entrepreneurial mindset to their academic journals.

The program students to become participants in their field, ready to shape the story of entrepreneurship.

Growing Reputations

It’s a field with great demand yet is different from building a business in your mind. Businesses growing ideas, growing reputation,” says Song. “And building an institute with new businesses and a new understanding of entrepreneurship. To create a lasting view of enterprise development, Institute faculty are conducting longitudinal studies on the businesses that leave the lab, helping enrich the research on entrepreneurship and high-growth ventures for Kansas City and the world business community.

“There speaks to our sustainability and impact,” says Song. “Imagine, year after year, 30 teams of future entrepreneurs in a city looking for business ideas, developing business models, creating new companies. Every single year. Just imagine the possibilities.”

FROM K.C. TO U.S.: SOURCELINK MODEL CONTINUES TO SPREAD

When Jeremy Hleg (MBA ’03) interviewed for the position of network integrity at KCSourcelink in July 2003, the organization claimed just three employees, a three-year business plan and a downtown office on the second floor of the 1474 Troost building in Kansas City, Mo. “We didn’t even have a phone,” Hleg recalls.

“We started out as a way to help small businesses find the resources they needed to grow,” Hleg says. “But we had very little. We had to develop the infrastructure, do the marketing, borrow, all of it.”

Today, KCSourcelink still works with a tight crew, but it has increased its footprint well beyond its modest schoolroom beginnings. Since 2003, KCSourcelink has connected a network of 140 plus resource partners to more than 2,400 aspiring and existing small business owners in the 18-county Kansas City region via telephone hotline or e-mail. More than 5,000 searches have been made within the 25 service categories with SourceLink’s online database, the Resource Navigator.

In fact, KCSourcelink has been entrepreneurial about being entrepreneurial.

“We’ve traveled the same road that we’ve guided other businesses through,” says Maria Meyers, KCSourceLink director. “We’ve basically created an intellectual property that is owned by the University and we license out.”

In 2005, KCSourcelink expanded under the brand of U.S. SourceLink, where it has zigzagged its Web tools from north to south, linking entrepreneurs with small business services in Wisconsin, Ohio, Kansas, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Some cities are using the model specifically to help grow minority-owned businesses.

“The unique thing about Sourcelink is that it networks together the resource partners that support small business development,” says Meyers. “The original plan was to work through people—to educate network partners about each other so they could make better referrals.”

“And that’s how a true network is built,” adds Meyers. “It’s all about the people.”

IT’S IN THE BAG

Handbag and Fashion Icons Andy and Kate Spade Named International Entrepreneurs of the Year

The UMKC Bloch School and the Council for Entrepreneurship and Innovation are proud to sponsor the 22nd Annual Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Dinner, celebrating the essence of entrepreneurial spirit and creativity. This event is a benefit for the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Bloch School.

Honorarium:
- Andy and Kate Spade
- L. William Zahner
- A. Zahner Company
- Regional Entrepreneur of the Year
- The Byron G. Thompson Family Marion and John Kroemer Award for Entrepreneurship in Volunteer Community Service
- The Westin Crown Center Kansas City, Mo.

To purchase tickets or for more information, go to www.kcsourcelink.com or call 816-235-2370.

Spend the Date

Monday, Oct. 8, 2007, 6 p.m. Reception, 7 p.m. Dinner

The Byron G. Thompson Family Marion and John Kroemer Award for Entrepreneurship in Volunteer Community Service
Last August, an e-mail request was sent to Executive MBA alumni: The Ali Kemp Educational Foundation (TAKE) was looking for ways to get its safety awareness and self-defense training program to a national level, and they needed a business plan.

“Within 90 minutes we had 17 alumni signed up to help,” says Karyl Leggio, associate dean for academic programs.

Mike Ianelli (EMBA ’06), west region sales manager with the Linde Group out of San Francisco, was one of them.

“This was an opportunity to work with an organization that is obviously doing good work,” says Ianelli, who holds a second-degree black belt and is father to two young girls. For him, getting involved was about being a part of the community, empowering his daughters and spreading a positive message.

“Ali’s story is something most people in Kansas City know about,” says Ianelli. “Since I finished my Executive MBA, I’ve wanted to be more involved.”

Roger and Kathy Kemp started TAKE Foundation in 2002 in memory of their daughter, Ali, who was murdered in June of that year. To date, the nonprofit foundation has trained more than 6,000 girls and women with its two-hour self-defense classes. But Roger Kemp and TAKE lead trainer Jill Leikhart, a sixth-deg- gree black belt who was twice named Karate Woman of the Year, wanted to broaden the program’s reach to “change behaviors” on a larger scale.

“We want to make people understand that what happened to Ali can happen to them or to someone they love,” says Leikhart. “But we also want to prove to young girls and women that they can do something about it.”

FROM PASSION TO PLAN

From August 2006 to January 2007, Ianelli and 16 other Executive MBA alumni met monthly to review TAKE Foundation’s existing business plan, map strategies and venues to expand the foundation’s scope, and propose a plan to strengthen the program regionally and nationally.

“Our task was to figure out where they could raise funds, how much they needed, next priorities, and what their future path should look like,” says Dev Malik (EMBA ’06), COO for Kansas City’s BNIM Architects. Unlike Ianelli, Malik has two sons, but was still impressed with the necessity of the foundation’s mission and the Kemp’s ability to “find a way to give hope to the world” in the face of personal tragedy.

The Executive MBA team met with Roger Kemp and the TAKE board. After listening to the board’s issues and concerns, the team split into four groups that covered TAKE’s markets: schools, corporations, community organizations and video. They ran competitive analysis. They researched market impact. And they looked for ways to grow the program without losing its passion or sense of community.

The team then built a business plan, which recommended TAKE Foundation focus their personalized training on high school girls, with college women and elementary school girls serving as expansion markets.

“We’re appreciative that these alumni took time to help us with the business plan,” says Roger Kemp. “We value what they’ve done.”

LEADING WITH BALANCE

For Ianelli, Malik and Kelly Lolli, senior strategist with Cerner’s government relations team, working with TAKE Foundation was a significant foray into the world of nonprofit leadership.

“I’ve always worked in for-profits,” says Lolli. “The Executive MBA really opened my mind up to the fact that there’s more than going to work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A lot happens in the nonprofit sector that can change how we live today, and I want to be part of that.”

Lolli and her colleagues cite the Public Sector of Business class as the source of their revelation. The class, taught by Gary Baker, PhD, public administration lecturer at Bloch, helps students understand how important the interface between for-profit, nonprofit and government is to their careers by putting them in the dialogue.

“The Bloch School is one of only seven business schools that houses business, public administration, accountancy and a PhD program under one roof,” says Baker. “We are in a unique position to teach these lessons with the faculty talent and perspectives of this school.

Students finish Baker’s course with a Washington residency that Baker says “exposes them to new ways of thinking” about how they can contribute to that dialogue and how critical that conversation is to their business success.

“My hope is that, like the students who took time and effort outside the classroom to work with TAKE Foundation, all of our Executive MBA students leave the program to become better civic leaders,” says Baker.

“The Executive MBA program and my experience with TAKE gave me the sense I could do anything I put my mind to,” says Malik. “Because the program is so demanding, it requires you to reach a little deeper, push a little harder—and then you realize what really is possible.”

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““This was an opportunity to work with an organization that is obviously doing good work.””

— Mike Ianelli, EMBA ’06
BLOCH EXECUTIVE MBA BUILDS LEADERS IN BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

Spotlight: UMB Financial Corporation and Michele Brinker

Today’s businesses can’t afford not to take a proactive role in developing leaders who will shape the future of their organization. UMB Financial Corporation, one of the largest independent banks in the United States, is one of those businesses.

“At UMB, we identify a talent pool of employees we think have strong leadership potential and we do ongoing development to prepare them for a place on our management committee,” says Jerry Hannah, senior vice president of management effectiveness.

Michele Brinker, UMB’s chief risk officer, was an ideal candidate.

Brinker earned her master’s degree in accounting from the Bloch School in 1997 and, making use of Bloch’s Executive MBA program, earned her master’s degree in business administration from the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) for several years. She says the Bloch Executive MBA was just as valuable to her civil work. “The residency we did in Washington, D.C., was especially influential,” she recalls. “It made me think a lot more about the relationship between business and community, and how much the two need each other. It’s something I think leaders in general need to think about.”

In the office or out, Brinker says the most important thing to her is the impact she has on those around her. “I want to make difference, both at work and in the community,” she says. “UMB is one of many corporate sponsors in the Kansas City area to take advantage of the Bloch Executive MBA program.”

Today’s businesses can’t afford not to take a proactive role in developing leaders who will shape the future of their organization.

What kind of response have you gotten on the revamped Bloch Executive MBA program, which has been in place for two years now?

KL: The statistics from the graduates of the Executive MBA program tell the story: their salaries are higher and two-thirds of them are promoted within a year of graduation. We also have more than 150 companies and organizations in Kansas City sponsoring employees in the program— that tells us the community feels like this program is worth the investment. In fact, I talked with a magazine asking us to sit on a panel with Penn State, potentially Harvard, and the Ross School at Michigan about what we’re doing with the Executive MBA program. People are noticing we’re doing cool things with this program.

Why is it important for a business school to be connected to the community?

KL: One of our most important jobs is to be a resource to area businesses. Our new undergraduate curriculum will move miles in terms of what we’re doing for area employers to strengthen their work force. Our executive education classes provide their employees with opportunities to share their experiences in class. And we are developing new ways to connect our faculty expertise and research with professionals who can benefit from it.

How does the Bloch School balance that need to serve the community and to lead it?

KL: We lead with our research, and academic research leads practice by a number of years. Entrepreneurship, for example, is a new field and there’s a shortage in faculty and a demand for research. Not only are we saying we’re going to help your business be successful in Kansas City, but we’re going to help other businesses in other parts of the world be successful by training their faculty.

What is Bloch’s immediate objectives?

KL: We are focused on increasing the rankings for our undergraduate program and getting the Executive MBA program ranked among the top in the nation. The vision is to continue to provide quality education and a caliber of graduate that the business community needs. We want to improve what we’re doing. We want to be better, be more creative, be more innovative and develop programs that foster the skills that are in demand in this part of the world.

What are Bloch’s hurdles—what still needs to be done?

KL: One of the areas I’m most excited about is our executive education. We have a lot of people who earned their MBAs 10 or 15 years ago and need a refresher. We can customize classes for companies or we can develop a series around a topic of their choice such as organizational influence. I think that’s going to be a real growth vehicle for us in the next five years. It’s also time to rev the MBA program.

“And when that’s finished, it will be time to re-examine the Executive MBA again. This is not a static environment. Things are going to continue to evolve. It’s a continuous process.
It wears a suit. Or jeans. Or even pajamas. It’s equipped with a mini multiple—PDAs, cell phones, laptops, iPads—and an impressive assortment of nouns-made-verbs. It blogs, maybe even vlogs, podcasts, networks, phishes. It’s not penned in by walls or tied down by wires. It’s fluid and often virtual.

It is the new business world. And despite the fact that they share a common vocabulary—and maybe the same closet—many of today’s undergraduate business students aren’t ready for it.

As the face of the MBA student changes (it’s a lot younger these days), so do the success skills needed by the undergraduate business student.

The Bloch School’s new undergrad program is anything but business as usual, giving students a higher level of skills than ever before.

“It used to be that a 22-year-old right out of school would be told what to do by their employers,” says Karyl Leggio, the Bloch School’s associate dean for academic programs. “That’s just not the case anymore. Instead, they’re told to solve a problem or work on an issue. They have to know how to get to start, and they have to have initiative to follow through.”

The Bloch School’s newly revamped undergraduate curriculum helps today’s business students better meet tomorrow’s business challenges. Grounded in leading-edge research and driven by the needs of the local, national and global business community, the program develops business acumen and strategic thinking, sharpens communication skills and gives students hearty, resume-building experience.

A HEAD FOR BUSINESS

“We’re thinking differently about undergraduate education,” says Leggio. “We have to. Business has changed, and universities have to be responsive to that.”

The Bloch School started by surveying its ripples of impact and influence—from current students to alumni to Kansas City business leaders to the global business community—to find out what skills business leaders will need in the next five years. Those answers led to big changes and a new perspective on undergraduate education.

Students can now choose from five emphasis areas. In addition to the traditional offerings in accounting and finance, students can specialize in marketing, enterprise management or entrepreneurship.

The fresh perspective is carried into the classroom, where professors look beyond the walls of their own courses to complement, apply and augment what students have learned in previous classes. That integrated core curriculum makes sure each course fits with and flows into the others. Courses now also integrate understanding in areas such as ethics, global business and leadership.

The results are crucial, says Leggio. “Students won’t just be memorizing facts for a test; they’ll learn to apply. For example, they may be called to apply skills learned in finance to make smart decisions in a strategic management course.”

A CHANGE OF COURSE

That applied learning follows them through all their business courses and into the world. In fact, Bloch undergraduates start building their resume before they even walk into their first information systems course. Each student completes Microsoft certification to ensure they have the software expertise in Excel and PowerPoint to be successful in their business courses and more attractive to employers.

In the classroom, undergraduate courses follow what has traditionally been an MBA model, employing case studies to help them think through and solve practical business challenges. Executive guest speakers, teamwork and global perspectives are woven into every course. Outside the classroom, students are encouraged to intern and study abroad.

Finally, in their senior-level capstone experience, students work in the Enterprise Development Laboratory, pulling everything they’ve learned into an actual business plan for a Kansas City technology or company.

Live cases, guest speakers, teamwork, global applications, internships and enterprise development—put together, these add up to real-world opportunities to learn from and take part in complex, everyday decision making.

That call for professionalism has led to the Bloch School’s new Communications Center. The center will house two classes focusing on building business-specific communication skills. Students will practice and polish throughout their undergraduate program. Students will learn to write effective e-mails and business memos, discover how to craft compelling presentations, find out how to present themselves properly at a business lunch, how to analyze the Wall Street Journal and how to dress appropriately for the competitive business environment they will join upon graduation.

“In today’s society, we have a different way of socializing,” Leggio says. “We don’t interact physically as much as we used to. Most of our students will engage in virtual communications and many will work for virtual companies. We want to make sure our students are prepared to succeed in any business environment.”
THE BLOCHCAST CONNECTION
New Bloch podcasts connect students with news they can use

Podcast: Sci-fi alien life form or innovative communication vehicle? If you guessed the latter, you’ve been keeping up with technology. Podcasts are an easy way to provide recorded information to almost anyone, anywhere, at any time.

Thanks to undergraduate business students David Derendinger and Daniel Allegri, the Bloch School is taking advantage of podcast technology in what has been christened “BlochCast,” podcasting by Bloch students, for Bloch students.

BlochCast, mp3-format audio files anyone can listen to, are published weekly. Listeners can subscribe to the program so they receive all published episodes automatically, or they can just visit the Web site and listen to select episodes.

“We started the BlochCast as part of a class project in Dr. Sidne Ward’s Introduction to Management Information Systems class,” Allegri says. “It’s a great way to make information accessible to people at their convenience. It’s like having a radio or news station at your command.” Currently, BlochCast recordings include things like news, information and internship opportunities, but Derendinger and Allegri say they hope to broaden the scope to include interviews with business and civic professionals in Kansas City, as well as student testimonials.

“We’d like to get interviews with local professionals who can offer tips about what employers are looking for and other real-world information Bloch students can use,” Derendinger says. “We’d also like to eventually let students offer their insights about their Bloch School experience — likes, dislikes and tips for success.”

“There aren’t a lot of business schools podcasting yet,” says Sidne Ward, PhD, associate professor of management information systems. Among those that are using podcasts to reach their technology-savvy students are Harvard, Wharton, Pepperdine, Teck and Darden.

“I teach students in my classes that in order to reach the most people, you need integrated communications and multiple media,” Ward says. “Many students are already comfortable using new technology such as podcasting to receive information. BlochCast is another way to reach these students — and we’re empowering the students themselves to develop and deliver the message.”

BlochCast can be accessed at http://bis.bsbpa.umkc.edu/student/blochcast.

They are Bloch students studying finance and management, entrepreneurship and public affairs. But when the books are closed, many of them prove Bloch students are more than they seem to be.

Griffen Alexander
Hometown: Plattsmouth, Neb.
By day: Sophomore, studying business administration (BBA)
On the outside: This guy rocks. Griffen Alexander spends most of his time outside the classroom working on his music. From the time he was 11 years old, Alexander knew he was born to hold a guitar. He’s rocked in bands and found influence in other musicians like John Mayer. He began writing his own songs and last May, he signed a record contract with Red Night Records and released his first CD in November.

Defining moment: “I was 17 and I’d been playing shows in Omaha for about five months. At one show at a small coffee shop, I sat in the corner with my guitar and people just started packing in until they couldn’t even sit and no more could get in. When I started playing, everyone knew the words to my songs. People I had never seen before were drinking in everything I did. And right then I knew this was going to happen.”

Jeff McCaffrey
Hometown: Kansas City, Mo.
By day: Senior, studying business administration
On the outside: After a paralyzing car accident in 2002 abruptly ended his plans of being a cadet and football player at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Jeff McCaffrey found himself faced with a whole different life. So he decided to use it to potentially improve the lives of many, devoting himself heart and soul to advocating stem cell research.

He has worked with groups like the Missouri Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, garnering support for the stem cell initiative, preventing hostile legislation, submitting for a ballot issue and speaking to numerous groups from chambers and boards to Bible studies. At UMKC, McCaffrey started a chapter of Student Society for Stem Cell Research. “The promise of stem cell research and its potential application gives me hope,” McCaffrey says. “One day there will be a treatment available to restore motor function, and I will walk again.”

Dream job: “There are different ways to advance life sciences research. Mine is through business. I really do see Kansas City becoming a Mecca of life science, and I love the fact I am able to partake in that. I look forward to contributing to that dream and vision.”
In today’s downsized corporate environment, where there often aren’t enough hours (or people) to get it all done, employers are gauging their employees’ time more jealously than ever. And yet major corporations like Sprint and Hallmark are encouraging those same employees to spend time learning about and joining nonprofit boards in the community.

Why?

“David Renz, PhD, director of the Bloch School’s Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership, says nonprofit board involvement is a trend once again on the rise.

“Corporations get several layers of return when employees get involved on boards,” Renz says. Those returns include positive perception in the community, leadership training and skills, networking and a point of pride for the employee.

“I’ve heard employees who have been given the chance to serve on nonprofit boards say they are proud to be part of a company that values such things,” Renz says. “It enriches their job in a way that helps them feel more allegiance to the company. They’re part of something bigger that supports their noncommercial interests and aspirations.”

At companies like Hallmark, in which giving back to the community is a major component of company culture, employees are encouraged and prepared to volunteer.

Susie Haake, employee volunteer program manager at Hallmark, has been using the Midwest Center’s How to Become a Nonprofit Board Member class for years to help educate employees who are ready and interested in getting involved on a board, but want to learn more.

The class, a two-hour lunch-and-learn offered once per year, is a general overview of nonprofit board service and the basic responsibilities.

“We definitely want to encourage people to become active in community boards, but we want them to understand that there are practical, ethical and moral responsibilities in assuming a board role,” Renz says.

Class topics include an overview of the legal responsibilities that go with board membership as well as self-assessment tools to help individuals find out if board membership is right for them, and if so, what kind of board they can bring the most to.

Renz uses real life examples of boards that have excelled, as well as those that have failed, and examines why.

“When a board fails to serve effectively and an organization due because of it, a critical resource for people in the community disappears, and this can be devastating for those groups in need,” Haake says.

“Some boards say they are proud to be part of a company that values such things.”

But Hallmark isn’t the only Kansas City company jumping on board with nonprofits. Renz and the Midwest Center team have also worked extensively with Sprint.

“When Gary Forsee took over the leadership at Sprint,“ Renz says, “he made a commitment that Sprint would be a sensitive and active player in the community, looking more closely at how up-and-coming Sprint leaders and top execs should be contributing to the community through volunteer service, including boards.”

Unlike the overview class at Hallmark, the classes at Sprint have been for people who are already committed to be members of the board.

“We created a two-layer program at Sprint,“ Renz says. “There’s a basic board performance workshop covering board effectiveness, the job of the board and understanding legal fiduciary accountability.”

The second board leadership workshop, Renz says, is for those serving in leadership roles on boards (like Chairs), and it focuses on how to effectively lead the board to work better as a team.

Renz has also been talking recently with two other major Kansas City companies about developing similar programs for their employees.

For the nonprofit organizations themselves, Renz gives this advice:

“What’s different now about nonprofit involvement with for-profit companies is the way people and companies get involved,” he emphasizes. “Time is limited – people don’t want an in-depth, permanent assignment that doesn’t have clear value. It’s incumbent upon nonprofits to make the case for why people should get involved. That means being able to clearly answer questions such as ‘how will my involvement make things better?’ and ‘how can I measure if I’m making a difference?’

If nonprofits want strong volunteers, Renz concludes, they must be effective in creating opportunities employees can afford.

The Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership takes research and theory at Bloch and applies them so practitioners can put this knowledge to work. The mission of the Center is to build effectiveness of the nonprofit community through strong nonprofit board leadership. The Center does this through credit and noncredit programs designed to build leadership and management in the nonprofit sector.

For information about upcoming workshops and programs, visit www.mcnl.org.
FUNKHOUSE S WINS!

This quote, found on Mark Funkhouser’s campaign Web site, well represents the style of Kansas City’s new mayor.

Formerly city auditor, Funkhouser has always been a strong advocate for the basic needs of Kansas City’s citizens. And while it hasn’t always endeared him to the powers that be, Funkhouser’s courage to speak truth to power has become one of his hallmarks to the average citizen. Funkhouser says his intrinsic knowledge of the city from his auditor days was a catalyst in his decision to run.

“I know how the system works and I know how to make it work better,” he says. “My job was to study City Hall, to identify what works and what doesn’t, and to come up with solutions to problems that affect us all. It was also my passion, because I’m a Kansas Citian. I want my city to be a clean, safe and prosperous place to live.”

Funkhouser strongly believes in starting with the basics. “We first handle the most basic tasks at hand,” he emphasizes. “In other words, forget Paris — let’s compete more effectively with Prairie Village.”

Cookingham Program allows returning volunteers an opportunity to turn skills into education.

Every second Tuesday, 10-15 students from the Bloch School’s Department of Public Affairs descend on Pizza 51 across the street for a little shoptalk and a lot of camaraderie. Some day soon, these graduate students will lead public service in Kansas City and beyond, but for now, they’re trying to learn more about their field.

They are the Public Administration Student Association, or PASA. Launched in spring 2006, PASA was created to enrich the social, academic and professional environment of public administration students.

Before PASA, “we didn’t have a chance to formally talk about the issues brought up in class, or in the sector in general,” says Tim Swenney, Peace Corps fellow and chair of PASA. “We didn’t have a formal venue to talk about the research we’re doing. PASA gives us a place to share ideas.”

In addition to monthly happy hours, PASA hosts a panel and review each semester. The PASA panel brings in professionals from the community who represent each prong of public administration: health administration, nonprofit management and urban affairs.

“It’s interesting to see how all three sectors share similar concerns,” says Nelson. “It helps us realize the commonality between the three areas.”

At a recent panel, board members and executives of the American Society of Public Administration, Council on Philanthropy, American Fundraising Professionals, Urban Land Institute and the American Public Works Association spoke about the benefits of student membership and how their organizations were helping students and professionals better handle the sector’s emerging trends.

The PASA review, also held each semester, gives students the opportunity to present their research to other students and faculty, allowing all Bloch students to see what public administration is all about.

PASA co-sponsored a mayoral forum with the African-American Student Association in February, and hopes to create collaborations with other UMKC schools.

“We enjoy the opportunity to work with other departments and disciplines,” adds Nelson. “It helps us realize just how deep the roots of public service are.”

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS BRING WORLD EXPERIENCE BACK HOME

Cookingham Program allows returning volunteers an opportunity to turn skills into education.

This winter, the L.P. Cookingham Institute for Urban Affairs in the Bloch School’s Department of Public Affairs introduced a new Peace Corps Fellows Program specifically for returning Peace Corps volunteers. One of only six Peace Corps Fellows public administration programs in the country, the new program not only gives returning volunteers an opportunity to earn a master’s degree in public administration, it lets them bring their world experience back to communities in Kansas City and the United States.

The program applies specifically to Peace Corps volunteers who have worked in a community-building field and want to translate their skills to work with communities in the United States, particularly those in the urban core.

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**GLOBAL FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES**

Bloom students bank on experience in China

Last October, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson noted that “China’s economic development is very, very important to China and the rest of the world,” and that he believed “the most important long-term economic relationship we’re going to have is going to be our relationship with China and vice versa.”

In April 2007, a group of 29 Bloom students spent a week in China as part of an international residency. Their trip and the following observations: “For all of our students, it became clear that doing business in China involved sometimes complex regulatory authorities in China and noted that “it was apparent that banking was at the center of economic activity in China.”

Financial planning in China faces special challenges with the average Chinese citizen saving 40 percent of their income, in comparison to 1 percent for U.S. citizens. It occurred to EMBA student Tammy Brestenbach, director of sales development for HR Block, that “the growing middle class holds interests for firms in the tax preparation business or for firms able to provide financial planning advice.”

Qing Cao, Bloom School assistant professor of management information systems, accompanied students on the trip and made the following observations: “For all of our students, it became clear that doing business in China involved sometimes complex relationships, but ones that were imperative to confront with the growing importance of China in the world economy.”

The Bloch School strives to incorporate global perspectives into curriculums and provide opportunities for Executive MBA levels and undergraduate students to learn and live work.

Najmeh Mahmoodjafari, junior, has an 8 a.m. class that meets every morning in the Bloom School. She likes to get to school a little early to prep for quizzes, review her notes—and catch up on Bloom news, world events and the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Mahmoodjafari starts her day in the Bloom School’s Student Lounge, gathering her information at the State Street News Center, four wall-mounted LCD screens that offer a mix of class announcements, alumni profiles, business facts, financial data, local weather, headline news and live CNN feeds.

“She really lets you see how class room information applies in the real world,” says Mahmoodjafari. The Bloom School Student Association originally proposed, and partially funded, the idea for electronic displays that would provide news to the Bloch community. They went to Lanny Solomon, the Bloom School’s associate dean for academic affairs, who, with the help of Dean O. Homer Erekson and Director of Development Donna Baker, found partners to help realize the group’s dream.

Rise Vision has nearly 15 years experience with information-rich news venues. They have installed and managed content for universities, banks and businesses nationwide, including business schools at Notre Dame and the University of Virginia. Rise Vision installed the four screens in the Student Lounge, a place chosen because of its visual prominence and continues to provide Web-based content.

“We saw this as a way to market the school in a variety of ways to students, faculty, alumni, anyone who visits our building,” says Solomon. “The displays show that we value information, technology and communication.”

With the solution in place, Bloom needed a financial partner to support the news center. State Street, which provides financial services to institutional asset managers, stepped up. Allen Strain, managing director for State Street’s Kansas City office, helped introduce the concept at the Bloom School Advisory Council. He saw this as a good opportunity to support the Bloom School and UMKC. “State Street, like other downtown employers, wants Kansas City to have a vibrant urban core,” says Strain.

“Any opportunity to help UMKC succeed is an opportunity to help Kansas City succeed.”

The Bloch School has two State Street News Centers on either side of the first floor where students can sit, talk, study or catch up on world news and industrial averages.
What is the cornerstone of a great university? A UMKC publication stated that it “is found in the diversity, character and accomplishments of its graduates.” For me, this means a school’s graduates continue to build upon their academic and social learning experiences in their career successes and societal contributions. The cornerstone becomes stronger when the university benefits from the expertise and contributions of its graduates.

The Bloch Alumni Association exists to provide an avenue to keep you connected with the Bloch School, your fellow alumni and students, our future alumni. The Alumni Association Board is committed to providing opportunities for your participation and involvement. In addition to alumni-only activities such as happy hours, we provide opportunities for student and alumni interaction through mentoring and other forums to bring real world expertise to students.

A significant goal for fall 2008 is creating a legacy fundraising event for the Bloch School, specifically hosting the Bloch School Golf Tournament at one of Kansas City’s premier golf clubs. We ask for your help to make these initiatives succeed, and no involvement is too small.

Calvin Coolidge once said, “No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” As an alumna of the Bloch School at UMKC, my hope is that you will stay connected and support our activities. Contact me or any member of the Board to discuss these opportunities.

From all of us on the Board, we welcome and look forward to your involvement.

Loyally,
Patricia “Candy” Yakimo
Executive MBA ’98
Bloch Alumni Board President

BLOCH LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATES:
A Symbiotic Relationship between School and Community

In March 2007, the Dean’s Advisory Council of the Bloch School launched Bloch Leadership Associates, a new program designed to serve business and civic organizations and individuals who want to be partners in helping shape the School’s future. Inaugural members develop a close connection with faculty and students and are also able to take advantage of special charter membership privileges.

Individual-level members receive an array of benefits to match that individual’s interests. In addition to continual recognition in the Bloch magazine, the Bloch School Web site and other publications, individual members are invited to an annual Bloch breakfast briefing to learn about leading-edge research and scholarship undertaken by distinguished faculty.

These members also earn reserved seats for all Bloch School Leadership Speaker Series events as well as tickets to the prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Dinner.

Business and civic organization members have the privilege of attending special presentations by the Bloch School faculty thought leaders and other distinguished scholars who shed new light on the leading business and civic topics of the day. They will also receive special assistance in identifying extraordinary candidates for their company’s internships and opportunities to serve as judges for the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation’s New Venture Challenge Competition, providing insider access to new business innovations.

Those who choose to join at the Dean’s Innovation Circle (the highest level of membership) also have the opportunity for consultations with Bloch School faculty experts to address problems facing their business or organization as well as exclusive semi-annual luncheons hosted by Dean O. Homer Erickson.

“The combination of camaraderie and an insider’s perspective on business topics and leaders makes the Bloch Leadership Associates an excellent opportunity for the School and the business community to connect and share a mutually beneficial relationship,” says Danny Baker, Bloch School director of development.

For more information about charter membership, contact Baker at bakerdani@umkc.edu or 816-235-2316.

BLOCH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD
The following Bloch School alumni actively serve as your volunteer Alumni Board. As of June 30, 2007, there will be five open positions. Consider joining the board. Visit us on the Web at www.bloch.umkc.edu/alumni-friends.

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REGINA REYNOLDS: A Life, A Legacy

Those who knew Regina Reynolds were impressed by her intelligence, imagination and the grace with which she handled everything that came her way. She was known as a leader’s leader: the person others want to emulate and the person everyone wants as a teammate.

Members of the 2006 Executive MBA class knew her well. She was a stand-out classmate and chief information officer at Kansas City Southern, remembers Reynolds as a person everyone wants as an associate because she had the unique talent to inspire every person she met to be a success.

In February 2006, Reynolds passed away, leaving many to miss the joy and energy she injected into their lives and work.

“Reynolds’ classmates, family (Warran and Nick Reynolds, Heather Lives and Sarah Buckley), and Kansas City Southern Industries joined together to keep Reynolds’ spirit and legacy alive at the Bloch School by creating the Regina Reynolds Scholarship. Reynolds endowed scholarship establishment supported us in perpetuity. For alumni and friends interested in extending Reynolds’ legacy with a contribution to the scholarship that bears her name, contact Danny Baker at bakerdani@umkc.edu or 816-235-2316.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Tom Holcom
Investing in America’s Future

At the Bloch School’s 2005 Commencement, Tom Holcom (BBA ’72) played Cheshire cat to an audience of graduating seniors—most, like the wandering girl in Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland, wanting to know which way they ought to go from here. His challenge: decide where you want to end up.

Holcom then distributed business cards and asked the graduates to flip them over and write their epitaph. It wasn’t an exercise in morbidity, it was an exercise in values.

This kind of long-term vision statement, deciding where it is you want to go, says Holcom, is what drives businesses, nonprofits and the people behind them to success. He should know.

As the president of Pioneer Financial Services, Holcom has led his team of 350 associates to enhance the quality of life and financial independence of military members and their families. Every day, they make a difference in the lives of those who serve our country, and their work has earned accolades for those who serve their country, and their work has earned accolades for their team and for Holcom.

In 2006, Pioneer earned the American Business “Stevie” Award for Best Corporate Responsibility Program and was recognized for the second time in three years as the 18th Best Medium-Sized Company to Work for in America by the Great Places to Work Institute.

Always crediting the focus and passion of Pioneer’s associates, Holcom earned the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Social Responsibility in the Central Midwest region from Ernst & Young and the Freedom Team Salute for supporting Pioneer associates who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, both in 2006.

Always crediting the focus and passion of Pioneer’s associates, Holcom earned the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Social Responsibility in the Central Midwest region from Ernst & Young and the Freedom Team Salute for supporting Pioneer associates who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, both in 2006.

Outside of the office, Holcom works with several nonprofit organizations, including Angel Flight, which provides access to charitable air transportation; Big Brothers and Big Sisters; Truman Medical Center Foundation; Command and General Staff College Foundation; and Athena PowerLink, which helps women-owned companies grow.

All of his work—with Pioneer, with nonprofits, even when he coached his three sons through 17 years of soccer—follows his own personal vision, written as an epitaph on the back of a business card when he graduated from the Bloch School in 1972. It reads, “He has no regrets. He made a difference.”

The Thomas H. Holcom Make a Difference Scholarship is available to full-time undergraduate or graduate students in the Bloch School. Selection is based on academic achievement, community involvement, professional excellence and financial need.
### HENRY W. BLOCH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DONOR HONOR ROLL

The following Donor Honor Roll is in appreciation and gratitude to our contributing partners and reflects gifts of $100 and above received between July 1, 2005 and Jan. 31, 2007. The names that follow are those of alumni, friends, faculty and staff, businesses, foundations, and organizations. All have made a public commitment to the unique education offered by the Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration and through their action have enriched the lives of countless individuals. Charter members of the Bloch Leadership Associates are noted with an asterisk (*) and have made a special commitment to support the dean's strategic initiatives. The Donor Honor Roll is based on cumulative gifts for the period.

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Entrepreneurship | EMBA | Undergraduate Business | Leadership | Financial Services | Alumni
NEW FACES
The Bloch School continues to attract talented staff. Below are the newest additions.

SAN DRA BRETZ
Executive Assistant to the Dean

FLORELLA FISHER
Administrative Assistant
UMKC Small Business and Technology Development Center

EUGENE PEGLER
Student Services Coordinator
Bloch Student Services Office

JILL STEMLEPL A N
Administrative Assistant
External Relations Office

JENNIFER BURKE
Director, Northern Kansas Regional Heartland Procurement Technical Assistance Center
Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

DEWAYNE LONG
Director, Northern Kansas Region Heartland Procurement Technical Assistance Center
Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

VICTORIA PRATER
Director of Communications

FACULTY CONTRIBUTIONS

This is a small sampling of awards and recognition
Bloch faculty received in the past year.
Lee Bolman, Marion Bloch/Missouri Endowed Chair in Leadership, and his co-author Tamae Hayashi, published in the Academy of Management Learning and Education.

David Cornett, associate professor of accounting, received the Eberly-Person Award for Early Career Teaching.

Nancy Day, associate professor of human resource management, and Damarone Hudson, Executive-in-Residence, received a UMKC Faculty Research Grant to conduct a study on the religious values of entrepreneurs.

David Donnelly, chair, Department of Accountancy, received the 2006-07 Bloch Graduating Student Distinguished Faculty Award.


Karyn Leggie, associate dean for academic programs, and Marlene Taylor, Goldfarb/Missouri Chair of Strategic Management, along with their co-author, David Friend, published in the "Industrial and Environment Risk: What the Electric Industry Experience Employ for Compensation Management Strategies".


The Bloch School received 2006 CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) Silver Award for Excellence of Advertising for the Student Series “The Bloch School Knows: Innovation is Essential.”

“…we are blessed with having dedicated and very productive staff in the Bloch School. Our new staff members are the first contact for visitors to the Bloch School. The day-to-day support of our staff makes effective learning, research and important initiatives possible.” – O. Homer Erekson, dean

O. Homer Erekson
Dean and Harlett Professor of Economics and Business Policy
PhD, University of North Carolina

Lanny M. Solomon
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of Accounting
PhD, Case Western Reserve University

Karyn Leggie
Associate Dean for Academic Programs
Associate Professor of Finance
PhD, Case Western Reserve University

Gregory W. Arling
Associate Professor of Health Services Administration
PhD, University of Illinois

Rajinder Arora
Schmitz Professor of Direct Marketing
PhD, Claremont Graduate School

Lee G. Bolman
Marion B. Bloch/Missouri Endowed Chair in Leadership
PhD, Yale University

Gene Brown
Valentine Radford/Missouri Endowed Professor of Marketing
PhD, University of Alabama

Rita M. Cain
Professor of Business Law
JD, University of Kansas

Qing Cao
Associate Professor of Management Information Systems
PhD, University of Nebraska

Philip Crossland
Associated Professor of Business
PhD, Louisiana State University

Nancy Day
Associated Professor of Human Resources
PhD, University of Kansas

Stephen A. DeLurgio
Professor of Operations Management
PhD, St. Louis University

David Donnelly
Professor and Chair, Department of Accounting
PhD, University of Illinois

Shad Dowlatshahi
Professor of Operations Management
PhD, University of Iowa

Joan V. Gallios
Professor of Leadership
EDD, Harvard University

J. Randall Gardner
Professor of Accounting
JD, University of Kansas

Larry R. Garrison
Professor of Accounting
PhD, University of Nebraska

Richard A. Hamilton
Associate Professor of Direct Marketing
PhD, Kent State University

Fred H. Havy
Carl W. Allender Professor of Banking and Finance
PhD, Louisiana State University

Robert D. Herman
Professor of Organizational Behavior
PhD, Cornell University

Jin-Mo Kim
Assistant Professor of Finance
PhD, Korea University

LaVern E. Krueger (Howie)
Associate Professor of Accounting
DBA, University of Colorado

David Kuipers
Assistant Professor of Finance
PhD, University of Missouri

Mark Perrin
Ewing Marion Kauffman/Missouri Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurial Leadership and Professor of Marketing
PhD, University of Texas-Dallas

Nicholas C. Peroff
Professor of Public Administration
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Roger A. Pick
Professor of Management
PhD, Florida State University

Stephen W. Pruitt
Arvin Gottlieb/Missouri Endowed Chair in Business Economics
PhD, Florida State University

David O. Renz
Bert K. Smith/Missouri Endowed Chair in Nonprofit Leadership
PhD, University of Minnesota

Leon Robertson
Professor of Strategic and International Business
PhD, Georgia State University

Joseph F. Singer
Professor of Business Operations and Analysis
PhD, University of Arkansas

Michael Song
Charles N. Kimball, Missouri Endowed Chair in Management of Technology and Innovation and Professor of Marketing
PhD, University of Virginia

Marilyn L. Taylor
Arvin Gottlieb/Missouri Endowed Chair in Strategic Management
Chair, Department of Finance, Information Management and Strategy
DBA, Harvard University

Robyne S. Turner
Victor E. and Caroline E. Shurtleff/ Missouri Endowed Professor in Urban Affairs
Chair, Department of Public Affairs
PhD, University of Florida

Sidle G. Ward
Associate Professor of Management Information Systems
PhD, University of California-Los Angeles

Nancy Weatherholt
Associate Professor of Accounting
PhD, University of Kansas

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY
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We hope your education at Bloch played a positive role in shaping your future. Please help us continue the momentum we are building through all of the exciting new programs and initiatives you’ve read about in this issue of the BLOCH magazine.

There are many ways to reconnect and make a valuable gift to the Bloch School. Time or money, large or small, no gift is without impact.

To learn more about your role in shaping the future for Bloch students, contact Daniel Baker, director of development, at 816-235-2316 or e-mail bakerdani@umkc.edu.