

## **Note from the editor**

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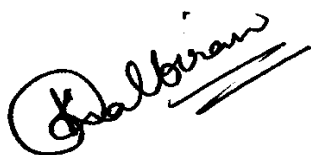
## Note from the Editor

At the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, our goal is to provide our Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) students with critical thinking skills, a global mindset and a sophistication of scholarship to ensure that they can succeed in today's complex international business environment. We believe that international experience is the key to inculcating cross cultural awareness, therefore, it comes as no surprise that almost 90 percent of our BCom students decided to go an international exchange in the year 2018-19. During the semester abroad, many students register in COM 470 – The International Business Research Course – which allows them to not only engage with the business practices in their host country, it also enhances their research and writing skills. To showcase the efforts of our students, we present **Best Business Research Papers, Volume 12**.

This year, we asked our students to focus on challenges that business organizations face as a result of the local environment of their host countries. In the 12<sup>th</sup> edition, we present the **top nine of our most interesting research papers**. The topics cover a wide range – in this issue, you will find topics ranging from China's growing debt and social innovation in Morocco to mental health issues among employees in Japan and human trafficking and prostitution in Thailand. We are extremely proud of the strength and determination showcased by our students while researching and writing on such challenging issues. We hope these outstanding papers inspire other students to engage in international business research.

We would also like to congratulate Ryan Grills and Sadee O'Shea on receiving the **Jamie Cassel's Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA)** this year. Ryan analyzed the global impact of China's growing debt and Sadee studied the different issues surrounding the tobacco industry in France and the impact of recent anti-smoking campaigns. In addition, the papers written by Hanna Chen and Catherine Musgrave are currently under review at the *Arbutus Review*.

The University of Victoria's Gustavson School of Business is proud to present these research papers from our 2018-2019 COM 470 students. We would like to thank the people who make this international exchange opportunity a success; it would not be possible without the hard work of these dedicated individuals. Thank you to International Programs team members Dr. A.R. Elangovan, Director; Brian Leacock, Associate Director; Jane Collins, Manager, International Exchange; Allen Sun, International Student Recruiter - China Specialist; Sherri Love, IP Development Officer; Elsa Yan, Exchange Student Advisor; and Christina Hernandez, International Student Coordinator; as well as Audrey Audebert, BCom Advising Officer and Shannon Perdigao, Academic Projects Officer. On behalf of everyone involved, we hope you enjoy Volume 12 of the BCOM Best Business Research Papers.



**Komal K. Kalra and the Editorial Team**

COM 470 International Business Research Instructor  
Editor, *Best Business Research Papers, Volume 12*