

Note from the editor

Komal Kalra

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Note from the Editor

Business education is evolving. Particularly in the light of recent global events, it is vital for academia to closely work with industry to prepare our students for future careers in a rapidly changing international business environment. At the Gustavson School of Business, our goal is to provide our Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) students with critical thinking skills that can enable them to become global leaders. We believe that international experience is the key to inculcating cross cultural awareness and a global mindset, therefore it comes as no surprise that over 90 percent of our BCom students decided to go an international exchange in the year 2019-20. **COM 470 is an instrument through which our students develop a high level of international awareness.** As a part of this course, students develop their research and writing skills by analyzing the business environment of their host country.

In Volume 13 of Best Business Research Papers, we present the top eight of our most interesting research papers. This year, students researched topics ranging from the agricultural industry in Switzerland to the climate change mitigation in France and the challenges faced by China's manufacturing industry. We are extremely proud of the strength and determination showcased by our students while researching and writing on such stimulating issues.

We would also like to congratulate Annie Washington, Christine Wensink and Katharine Lazar on receiving the **Jamie Cassel's Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA)** this year. Annie analyzed the role of family business in Czech Republic, Christine studied the socioeconomic costs associated with the increasing life expectancy in Spain, and Katharine focused on energy efficiency in Portugal.

The University of Victoria's Gustavson School of Business is proud to present these annual research papers from our 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, Outgoing Exchange Advisor; Sheri Love, Global Engagement & Business Development; Elsa Yan, Exchange Student Advisor; and Christina Hernandez, International Student Advisor; as well as Audrey Audebert, Assistant Director, Undergraduate Programs, and Shannon Perdigao, Academic Projects Officer. On behalf of everyone involved, we hope you enjoy reading the BCOM Best Business Research Papers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Komal Kalra', with a circular mark at the beginning and a double underline at the end.

Komal Kalra and the Editorial Team

COM 470 International Business Research Instructor
Editor, *Best Business Research Papers, Volume 13*