

Note from the editor

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2009

Bachelor of Commerce Best Business Research Papers

UVic Libraries ePublishing Services

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Original citation:

Goerzen, A. (2009). Note from the editor. *Bachelor of Commerce Best Business Research Papers*, 2, 2.

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Particularly in light of recent economic events, it is clear that all national economies are closely intertwined. Canada's prosperity, even our own local social and cultural vibrancy, appears to be tied to the global economy. To compete in this context, managers need an international outlook which includes knowledge of other countries, strong cross-cultural skills, a sound understanding of economic, social, and environmental issues, and the ability to adapt and operate abroad. The mission of the University of Victoria's Bachelor of Commerce program, therefore, is to give students the essential knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the global economy.

At UVic Business, our goal is to develop a new generation of business leaders equipped with "global intelligence" and we are committed to providing every student with an international experience. In fact, it is this commitment that distinguishes UVic Business from other universities. The training students receive at UVic Business, through exchange, international study tours, an international co-op position, or through an international integrative management exercise, prepares them for a business world without borders. We ensure that our students develop an international perspective through direct experience with issues in management and organization. In fact, UVic Business has one of the largest international exchange programs in Canada with currently 58 active partnerships in 29 countries. The strength of these partnerships is represented in the total number of outbound students; annually approximately 80 per cent of BCom students participate in international exchanges and study tours. In 2008-2009, we sent a total of 151 students on exchange to 39 universities in 22 countries.

Many of these students were enrolled in COM 470 Business Research, the purpose of which is to give students who go on international exchange an opportunity to improve their research skills by examining a business issue that relates to the place they visit. They explore in depth a topic of their choosing, reporting on a phenomenon that affects the entire country or region or they can focus on a specific issue that pertains to a particular private, public, or not-for-profit organization.

Beginning in 2007, we began showcasing the best COM 470 research by publishing a compilation of *Best Business Research Papers*. The topics have ranged widely from an analysis of the impact of regulatory issues on a firm's export capacity to the nature of social responsibility in the local context. What these papers have in common, however, is that the authors have produced interesting and thoughtful research which is the best in their class.

While a small group of students is being honoured in this volume, there are many people behind the scenes that allow this rather complex international exchange operation to function including Dr. A.R. Elangovan, Director of International Programs; Brian Leacock, Associate Director, International Programs; Jane Collins, International Exchange Programs Coordinator; Ruth Davison, Exchange Student Advisor; Ann Peng, International Student Advisor; and Donna Davis, Clerk for International Programs. Thanks also go to Lisa Russell, Research & Special Projects Officer for co-ordinating and compiling this volume.

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