March 2020

In a matter of days, in response to the global pandemic, the postsecondary world was turned upside down in the way it delivered its student experience. Professors needed to continue to deliver exceptional education by lecturing through a screen with increased technology capacity. Students had to embark on a new style of learning, and we were forced into social separation. The School’s monthly donors came to the rescue! Your donations to the unrestricted Dean’s Excellence Fund provided support for our instructors to access teaching grants to continue the excellent teaching standard that we are all used to in person. Donor investments were used to hire teaching assistants that supported the back-end technology and manage communication throughout courses. This allowed for questions to be addressed and for students to feel heard. Faculty also had the means to acquire video equipment to ensure that no quality was lost in their lectures. Your generous gifts facilitated opportunities to happen at the ground level when the School needed them most.

Dr. Kyle Murray
Vice Dean, Alberta School of Business
Incoming Dean as of July 1st

Dr. Joseph Doucet
Dean, Alberta School of Business

Thank you!
May 2020

With the support of the Jenkins family, two classrooms in the Business building were completely refurbished and repurposed for blended learning. A pleasing aesthetic with new finishes and furniture allow for inspiring group collaboration and innovation to take place, moving away from the traditional lecture style theatres commonly seen at the university. This new style of teaching means that students engage with rigorous theory and best practices from video lectures and online content that can be learned whenever and whenever a student wants to. Then in the classroom, students work individually and in teams to tackle interactive real-world business problems — including simulations, cases, and live case discussions with visiting executives. Because of Richard ('86 BCom) and Lorelei Jenkins and their passion for furthering experiential learning, we are now able to deliver a more engaging and memorable student experience. We look forward to seeing students in these classrooms as we return to campus this fall.

August 2020

We have fostered long-lasting relationships with donors like you who have contributed to more than 50 endowments! The sustainable nature of these funds is transformational for the School and allows us to continue our mission into perpetuity. Endowments are supporting student awards, faculty chairs, professorships, and research. This year, the Stanley Mah Entrepreneurship Fund was able to support co-curricular training of students at national competitions in entrepreneurship, placing in the top three. Experiences like these are so vital for students to participate in. Not only are you supporting this activity in real time, the community benefits as our students begin their careers and contribute to building bigger and brighter futures.

November 2020

A fruitful conversation with one donor, Aroon Sequeira ('81 BCom), planted the seed to support Indigenous students at the School. With the appointment of Michelle Inness as assistant dean of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, this idea could not have come at a better time. Through consultation and careful consideration of the donors’ intentions and School needs and priorities, the first ever Indigenous Business Students Association will be implemented for fall 2021! A combination of donor funding, mentorship, and community networks will launch this student club into a destiny for success. Together, donors and the faculty brought a much-needed initiative to life.
As we neared the end of the year, there were learnings behind us and many that will pave the way for the future. The pandemic reminded us of how precious life is and a number of you decided to dedicate your legacy to the School through estate gifts or gifts of life insurance. Through this support, you are creating a lasting impact for future students of the School. Ken Peck (BEd ’93 and MACT ’03) and Jody Peck (BCom ’88) were not only inspired to create an endowment to support students through scholarships, but they have included a special gift in their will to support the university. Your contribution to the future of the School and our students is astonishing.

You have given hope to the next generation of business graduates by creating experiences and programs that will live on forever.

— December 2020

Here we are ten months after the start of the pandemic and still we find ourselves far from the normal we once knew. Many did not expect we would still be in the middle of a pandemic or going through a second wave. What brings the School great comfort is the more than 30,000 alumni that are changing the landscape of the world in which we live. You are solving the world’s problems in every industry, from accounting to real estate, healthcare to technology, and we couldn’t be more proud. Some of you have enjoyed a relationship with the School for many years while for others, we are just getting to know your story. What we learn is that so many of you are ready to give back through your time, talent, and treasure — even if it is on Zoom! You have served in so many ways — mentoring our students, hiring interns and graduates to be part of your teams, providing your expertise on committees and in the classroom, and through philanthropy. Last year, nearly 200 donors supported the School with a large percentage of those donors being alumni.

You are an inspiration.

— January 2021

Our corporate donors have been essential partners in ensuring our students have excellent opportunities at the School to carry them forward into their careers. A generous three-year sponsorship from Canadian Western Bank will support our 25 student clubs to access funding for support in their events, case competitions, and community outreach activities. The Chartered Professional Accountants Education Foundation provided funds for numerous scholarships and programming support for our robust accounting program, which recognizes the need for the future of this important profession. Made possible by Syncrude, a successful webinar called “Rising from Failure” brought together hundreds from the business community to learn from Edmonton Football Club players Trevor Harris and Greg Ellingson about building up resiliency. These gifts have created a wave of impact on so many in the faculty — students, staff and academics. We are humbled by your generosity.

— March 2021
Future Forward

As we move forward in 2021, we remain focused on providing our students with the knowledge, tools and experience they require to contribute to the economy around the globe. As students make their way back to an in-person environment on campus, we recognize the need to incorporate Work Integrated Learning into their educational experience. Co-operative education, internships, bootcamps, and field placements need to be elevated. New spaces for collaborative collisions to occur and innovations to become reality will be especially important. Over the next 18 to 24 months, the School will continue to focus on ensuring our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge required for prosperity. We are excited to share that a student collaboration space will be created in the former Winspear Library space in the business building. Experiential learning will be at the forefront, where students can collaborate on course projects, student initiatives, and community engagement activities. You can have an active role in the success of this project. To learn more about this new student space and other priorities, connect with a member of our team.

The Advancement Team at the Alberta School of Business

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Thank you for your continued belief and investment in the Alberta School of Business. We know that the last year presented many challenges and changes and we are grateful and appreciative of your continued partnership with us. THANK YOU. Together, we are making a difference.