

Achievements and Opportunities

In the never-ending hustle of our everyday lives, where we sprint from one engagement to the next and can sometimes

barely spare a moment to eat, pausing for a moment to reflect on our progress is a luxury most of us can't afford.

This column, however, forces me on occasion to do exactly that. And I am glad for that.

As I often say, I am thankful to have a front row seat to watch the incredible growth and change that takes place here.

I work with energetic, dedicated faculty and staff members who give everything they have to make our college better. I visit with passionate alumni who remember their experience here fondly and want to help improve the experience for tomorrow's business students. And every day, I see those students develop into smart, young businesspeople that give me confidence about the future of our economy.

So I know exactly how fortunate I am, yet I am reminded of it anew, time and time again.

It occurred to me when I watched our alumnus Scott Hamilton's gripping presentation about his career with WorldCom and the State of Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina. He left Iowa State and



established a very successful professional career. And in the face of two unimaginable disasters—caused by the poor ethical choices of others and Mother Nature herself—he worked tirelessly for those in harm's way.

It struck me again the very next day, as I watched David and Ellen Raisbeck, both Iowa State alumni, talk about how Iowa State shaped their lives, and how they hoped to instill a global mind-set into future Iowa State business students through their \$3 million gift. It takes a profound sense of loyalty to give back in such a way, and makes me proud of their belief in what our faculty and staff have accomplished here.

And I could not help but think of it again as two of our finest faculty took a group of MBA students on a two-week tour of the booming economy of China. They visited with major companies, sampled the culture, kept journals, took thousands of photos, and for most of them, reached out for the first time and touched the new global reality that most of us only read about.

Indeed, as we approach our twenty-fifth year as a college in 2009, we are now doing things we might have dared only dream about in our earlier days.

And there is more to come. Next year, our PhD program will officially launch. *Campaign Iowa State* has been an incredible success to this point, but we must finish strong in order to better our programs and provide our faculty and staff with more resources.

Though we have many accomplishments to celebrate, we have much work in front of us. I am fortunate to be a part of it, and look forward to the challenge. ■

Labh S. Hira, Dean

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