

# College Dedicates Three New Named Spaces

## DR. CHARLES B. HANDY GRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFICE

The Graduate Programs Office at 1350 Gerdin Business Building added the name of Dr. Charles B. Handy on September 20, 2007. Handy and his wife Mary Kay were present as many of his friends, family and former students paid him tribute and dedicated the space in his honor.

“Today we honor Dr. Charles Handy, a man whose dedication and perseverance helped build business education at ISU from a department, to a school, to the college we know today,” said Dean Labh Hira. “For that, he will forever be known as our ‘Founding Dean.’”

Hira noted the appropriateness of the graduate programs office bearing Handy’s name since he was so instrumental in developing the college’s graduate business programs.

Handy was hired as an instructor in 1958. He was named department chair in 1978. In 1980, the department became the School of Business, then the College of Business Administration—with Handy as its first dean—in 1984. He helped

start the college’s MBA program a year later.

“Naming an area in the Gerdin Business Building in my honor is the thrill of a lifetime,” said Handy.

“It takes on special significance since that office houses Ron

Ackerman, director of graduate admissions and my former assistant.”

Several of Handy’s former students contributed to the \$200,000 naming gift, including

Bill (’77 MS Industrial Administrative Sciences, ’73 Industrial Administration) and Raedene Kalm, Al (’70 Industrial Administration) and Sue Landon, Steve (’69 Industrial Administration) and Phyliss (’69 Sociology) Dapper, Scott (’79 Industrial Administration) and Julia Johnson, Lynn (’60 Industrial Administration) and Jody Vorbrich, Chris (’75 Industrial Administration) and Sondra Paskach, and an anonymous donor.

“I’m here because a man believed in me and supported me,” said Kalm, who remains close to Handy. “He is a mentor, a friend, and somebody who believes so strongly in the mission of teaching.”

The bond is mutual. Kalm was one of Handy’s first admissions to the new Industrial Administrative Sciences graduate program in the 1970s. Handy noted that Kalm’s undergraduate record at Iowa State was not that impressive, “but Bill soon proved his mettle. He went on to a highly successful career in business. For many reasons, he is one of my favorites.”

## STEVE AND BECKY SMITH MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING SUITE

Steve (’70 Industrial Administration) and Becky Smith of Greensboro, Georgia, might choose their sport more carefully on their next visit back to Iowa.

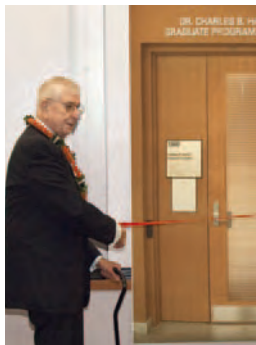
The dedication of the Management and Marketing Suite at 2350 Gerdin Business Building was held on January 18, 2008, in part so they could see the Iowa State-Oklahoma State men’s basketball game the following day. Becky is a proud Oklahoma State grad and Cowboy fan.

But sub-zero temperatures greeted the Smiths in Iowa, providing a chilly welcome to an otherwise warm celebration of their \$200,000 naming gift.

“Friends don’t invite friends to Iowa in the middle of January!” joked Steve Smith. “Next time we want to spend time with the golf team.”

“Today we honor Dr. Charles Handy, a man whose dedication and perseverance helped build business education at ISU.”

—LABH HIRA



DR. CHARLES HANDY “CUTS THE RIBBON” ON A REPLICA OF THE DOORWAY TO THE OFFICE THAT NOW BEARS HIS NAME. HIS LEI WAS SENT AS A GIFT FROM AL LANDON, A 1970 ALUMNUS AND CONTRIBUTOR WHO LIVES IN HAWAII.



STEVE AND BECKY SMITH

But Steve is no stranger to Iowa’s cold weather. He came to Iowa State from Marshalltown, earning his degree in 1970 and launching a highly successful career with Procter and Gamble, rising through the ranks to manage its non-food

accounts for their paper division in the United States. He eventually left to become national sales manager for VO5 shampoo at Alberto-Culver in Chicago. He then became director of business planning for Helene Curtis before moving into private consulting.

Becky enjoyed a great career of her own, leading a number of sales positions in North America before moving on to Hiachi to lead worldwide marketing for their hard drive division.

“Steve and Becky Smith are special to me as friends and donors of the College of Business,” said Dean Labh Hira. “It was their gift in 1999 that ensured that the Gerdin Challenge [the fundraising campaign to build the Gerdin Business Building] would be met.”

Tom Chacko, chair of the Departments of Management and Marketing, also spoke at the dedication. “I stand here with this deep feeling of humility and gratitude,” he said. “Both of you have been deeply committed supporters of the College of Business. We will not disappoint you.”

“We respect Labh and think he’s done a wonderful job for the college,” said Steve Smith. “We keep this gift unrestricted to allow the experts to determine the way it should be used. We’re just happy to help Iowa State.”

### WILLIAM L. VARNER ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE SUITE

Bill Varner ('74 Industrial Administration) considers the relationship between his company and his university to be a winning proposition.

Varner, a vice president and controller with Cargill in Minneapolis, has been very involved with Iowa State on behalf of Cargill—recruiting Iowa State graduates to the company, collaborating on research opportunities, and promoting a global business perspective among students.

He recently decided to share some of his success with the college by making a \$200,000 gift to name the Accounting and Finance Suite in 2330 Gerdin Business Building. “As a manager, you see the value of the relationship,” Varner said. “You like to reward good work and capability.”

“Bill has had a very successful career at Cargill,” said Dean Labh Hira. “We’re honored that he made this gift in recognition of the role Iowa State played in his success.”



WILLIAM VARNER

A native of Decorah, Iowa, Varner came to Iowa State to play baseball. “People were approachable and interested in you as a person, and interested in helping you,” Varner said. He discovered accounting, which became his profession after his baseball career ended. “People who

are successful at Iowa State can be successful at Cargill,” he said. “A lot of my good fortune is due to the base that ISU gave me to prepare me.”

The dedication was held on April 11, 2008. ■

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—BILL VARNER