



# Entrepreneurship Center

## *Friends & Family* eNewsletter

News from the Entrepreneurship Center at Seattle University  
Summer '11

### **GEARING UP**

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and school will start in less than a month. We already have plans underway for our 14<sup>th</sup> annual business plan competition, Leo is dreaming of a repeat on the SIFE national competition (photo of last year's team attached) and Kim is wrestling with capturing information on all our wonderful volunteers (more on that). Probably the biggest news is that we are in the process of hiring a Business Plan Coordinator this fall who will move into my position at the end of the school year (no, this isn't a typo). While I love my job, I feel it is a good time to start handing it off to the next generation—hum, sounds like a family business in transition. More on this transition soon. Another big transition is that we will be moving the Entrepreneurship Center to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Pigott. Plans are currently being drawn and we will hopefully be in our new space in Oct.

### **RANKINGS**

Business Week acknowledged all our undergraduate efforts by awarding us the #15 spot in their national program ranking. Much of the credit goes to Leo for all his hard work building our minor over the last 2 years. On last count, we have roughly 125 students signed up from across the campus—17% non-Albers.

### **ROUNDTABLES**

This fall we will be launching a 3<sup>rd</sup> version of our Roundtable program—this one specifically aimed at smaller businesses. It will look similar to our current Executive Roundtable but held less frequently – 6 times/year plus our quarterly professional development sessions. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let me know.

Rene Ancinas, President & CEO of Port Blakely Companies, will speak on campus on the evening of Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Dean's Executive Speaker series. Rene spoke to our Roundtable group last March and was the star of the show so plan to attend his talk. His topic for the evening will be "Preparing for an Unexpected Future."

### **VOLUNTEER SURVEY**

We are actively reaching out to all our volunteers to see what role they would like to play in this upcoming year. If you haven't gotten a survey yet from Kim, please fill out the attached form—it's quick and easy. All the hard work is after filling out the form.

### **IN THE NEWS**

Advisory Board member, Chuck Porter, was quoted in a Seattle Times article on venture capital investments in Washington State: [Times Article](#). While not currently a pretty picture, Chuck and

Greg Gottesman, managing director at Madrona Venture, feel the situation is healthier when you dig deeper into the numbers.

Brayden Olson, CEO of Novel and SU graduate, was part of an extensive article in Seattle Business Magazine titled *Play Time*, discussing where gaming technology is helping drive productivity and creativity: [Gamification](#). Brayden started his company while he was still a student at SU!

Karen Ward, SU grad and winner of the business plan competition in 2008, is featured in the Woodinville Patch: [Girly Girl](#). If you haven't tried her wine, you should.

### **OTHER COMPETITIONS**

We, along with a number of other community partners, are helping support Social Venture Partners' Social Innovation Fast Pitch 2011. I know we have at least one SU team competing and I will be helping at the pitch clinic next week. They are still looking for experienced mentors for early/mid-stage social businesses and non-profits. If you are interested, go to: [SIFP](#).

### **A FAN OF THE CENTER ON FACEBOOK**

As of this morning, we are now up to 179 people following us on Facebook. Thanks for staying connected and offering your thumbs-up when you see something you like.



*Have a great Labor Day weekend!*