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University of Cincinnati  
College of Business



## Special Interest Articles:

- Graduating Class of 2004

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## From The Director

Hi Everyone!

Academically speaking, this is my favorite time of year. Graduation is such an exciting time for all of us as we launch another class into the "real world". I was personally so proud of all of our students at graduation last week, and the celebration on the riverboat cruise that we had for them the next day was a great time. The students reminisced about their time at UC, and we were all very entertained by the stories they told, many having to do with the international trip they took two years ago. Most of our graduates are staying in town, but a handful have taken jobs out of town, or will be attending graduate school out of town. We wish you all the best, and know you're ready to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Our pre-juniors just concluded their international trip earlier this week. Most stayed in Europe, where they are traveling now on their own. From what I've heard so far, it was another phenomenal trip. The

students visited Linz, Austria; Prague in the Czech Republic; Geneva; Munich; and Amsterdam. The dinner with Joel and Danny Wyler in Amsterdam was a highlight, as always, and I can't wait to hear all of the stories about the trip; we'll have more on that in our next newsletter.

The sophomores and juniors will be back on campus this summer, after co-oping this spring, so we'll have some company on campus. Our incoming freshman class of 24 students will be having their welcome party at Coldstream in early July, and going through orientation the two days following. This is an exciting time for them as they make the transition to college. We know they'll love it, and we can't wait to welcome them all to campus.

Plans are proceeding for our Lindner Honors-PLUS house in the new Stratford Heights development, which will have 26 beds for our students and be ready for occupancy in Fall of 2005. We've also been working on enhancing our leadership development program for our students,

and several of our current freshmen (upcoming sophomores) will be attending the LeaderShape conference at the end of the summer. All of our upcoming sophomore classes are beginning their summer internships next week. Thank you to all of the employers who have participated in our internship program; I'm sure you'll be pleased with these talented young people.

Our fund-raising campaign is still active, and the support we're receiving from the business community, UC alums, and parents of our students is appreciated more than I can say. With state subsidies being cut, tuition increases (which raise our scholarship costs), and the pressures of the market on our endowments the last few years, new financial support is crucial to our being able to continue the programs that have been so successful and enriching for our students. To all of you who have lent the program your financial support, we offer our sincere thanks.

*Jeri Ricketts*

## 2004 Lindner Honors-PLUS Graduating Class

by: Donna Fisher

Congratulations to the Lindner Honors-PLUS graduating class of 2004! We are very proud of each one of you and your many accomplishments while you were in the program! It's interesting to note that while being so involved in the community and on campus, the average GPA for this graduating class is 3.81, showing a determination to excel in all aspects of their college careers. We wish you much success in the future and look forward to hearing from you often.

### Graduating Class of 2004:

Mitchell Bahr  
 Todd Barnes  
 Paul Bessire  
 Jeffrey Bevan  
 Stephen Bybee  
 Eric Deller  
 Erica Drinnen  
 Jocelyn Esber  
 Monica Espel  
 Robert Flaig  
 Julie Gast  
 Sarah Green  
 Jeffrey Hack  
 Regina Hoell  
 Clarissa Kin  
 Kristen Koch  
 Abigail Lake  
 Abigail Layne  
 Sharlena McGowan  
 Josh Mock  
 Laura Meyer  
 Kyle Neumann  
 Jason Nickles  
 Christopher Parker  
 Georgia Polychroniou  
 Robert Reinerman  
 Stefanie Smith

### Outstanding COB Student Awards:

#### Kyle Neumann

Family Business & Entrepreneurship

#### Jocelyn Esber

Finance

#### Abigail Lake

International Business

#### Clarissa Kin

Marketing

#### Regina Hoell

PRISM Award (Product Information & Supply Mgmt.)

#### Jocelyn Esber

Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key

#### Paul Bessire

COB Spirit of Community Award.

#### Kyle Neumann

"The Mr. Bearcat" Award.

#### Robert Reinerman

John Hattendorf Award

#### Rob Reinerman

"The Presidential Leadership of Excellence" Award.

Rob Reinerman was also nominated by the University to compete for a very prominent full-merit graduate scholarship awarded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

Rob Reinerman was selected to represent the College of Business as the Flag Bearer during President Zimpher's Inauguration Ceremony on May 21<sup>st</sup>.



I asked the students if they would like to leave us with some parting thoughts. The following comments are from the students who responded:

*"I have had an incredible experience in the Lindner Honors-PLUS Program. Honors-PLUS has enabled me to establish a strong foundation that constantly pushes me to grow and excel academically, professionally, and personally. I will especially miss my classmates and the atmosphere that is created when we all come together. I look forward to remaining involved with the program for many years to come and I hope that the younger members of the program*

*take fullest advantage of everything Lindner Honors-PLUS has to offer."*

Rob Reinerman

*"The Lindner Honors-PLUS program has provided me with countless opportunities to develop not only as a business professional, but also as a person. I have made many close friends through the program, including students, faculty, and staff. I also have many great memories that will stay with me forever. I would like to thank my classmates, Honors-PLUS professors, Jeri, Norm, Scott, Judy, and Donna for making my experience so great!"*

Jeff Hack

*"Looking back over my five years at the University of Cincinnati, I could not imagine a better education, better friends, better advice or a better overall experience at any other school. Dr. Baker--Thank you for helping me to get my dream job at CSFB and for always being supportive, no matter where I went around the world. Jeri--you were not only my favorite professor, but also the person whose advice I trusted above anyone else. Donna--you really are the heart of Honors-PLUS, keeping us all informed of each other and hyped-up on candy. I loved my time at UC, and especially my time with my fellow Honors-PLUSers".*

Abbie Lake

*"The Carl H. Lindner Honors-PLUS program and all it offers has been a huge asset to my personal growth, education, and experiences over the past 5 years. It has provided a platform on which I could excel academically, as well as develop my leadership skills through numerous experiences. I cannot imagine coming out of college with a better undergraduate education or being more prepared to enter the workforce. My experiences provided through the Lindner Honors-PLUS program have impressed prior co-op employers, as well as potential and current employers. Without Lindner Honors-PLUS I do not believe I would have landed such a great job right out of college as I have at US Bank in the Commercial Real Estate Department. Thank you all for a wonderful program that has had such a positive impact on my future."*

Stefanie Smith

## Eager & Ready

by: **Scott Gregory**

What an exciting milestone! In just a couple weeks, the eighth class of 24 Lindner Honors-PLUS freshmen scholars will begin attending orientation and registering for their first quarter of classes. We are just as excited as they are about their joining our team.

Who are these new students? They are recent high school graduates – half from Cincinnati regional public schools and a fifth from outside of our metropolitan area. Five are high school valedictorians.

Academically this group ranks in the top 6% of their recent class and brings with them a strong educational profile – an average GPA of 3.94 and exam scores of ACT composite 29 and SAT total 1321.

Outside of the classroom, this highly selective group brings with them strong leadership in student government, an innate sense of community service, state and national athletic recognitions along with self-pride and a sense of success that opens the door to greater opportunities in the next step of their educational career.

By the time school starts this fall, these students who have selected our school will feel a sense of belonging and comfort. Current Lindner Honors-PLUS Scholars have joined the faculty and staff to develop a line of communication with each and every one.

Although we are disappointed that

two of our students who were extended offers changed their minds after initial confirmation to our program, we can stand proud to know they are going to competitive schools – Harvard and Vanderbilt.

The Fall 2004 Lindner Scholars include:

Dustin Alvey

Conner, Florence KY

Jason Ballas

West Muskingum, Zanesville OH

Zach Chaney

St. Xavier, Cincinnati OH

Kelly Collins

Oak Hills, Cincinnati OH

Doug Cushman

Elder, Cincinnati OH

Kyle Dragan

LaSalle, Cincinnati OH

Austin Flint

Lebanon, Lebanon OH

Patrick Fluegeman

St. Xavier, Cincinnati OH

Kirby Huelsebusch

Lebanon, Lebanon OH

Kiana Herron

Princeton, Cincinnati OH

Carolyn Hoffman

St. Francis DeSales, Col. OH

Alex Huang

Northmont, Dayton OH

Kathryn Johnston

Indian Hill, Cincinnati OH

Jay Johnston

Maderia, Cincinnati OH

Megan McElroy

Georgetown, Georgetown OH

Kevin Perkins

Anthony Wayne, Maumee OH

Alex Petre

McNicholas, Cincinnati OH

Stephen Porter

Batavia, Batavia OH

Jay Radley

St. Xavier, Cincinnati OH

Stephen Repella

Steubenville, Steubenville OH

Ryan Rosenzweig

Walnut Hills, Cincinnati OH

Annie Seitz

Seton, Cincinnati OH

Allison Stallo

Oak Hills, Cincinnati OH

Devon Steelman

Cincinnati Hills Christian,

This entering class will, as always, complement the current Lindner Honors-PLUS classes by bringing high academic, extra-curricular, and professional achievements.

Scott Gregory

**Co-Op Spotlight****American Financial Group, Inc.**

by: Lisa Morris

Upon acceptance into the Carl H. Lindner Honors-PLUS business class of 2007, I was thrilled with the opportunities associated with this program of study. I looked forward to the advanced courses, an internship at the completion of my freshman year, the international study and travel, and most of all the co-op experience.



A few months into my freshman year, I began to research the companies accepting summer interns in accounting and taxation, and I decided on which companies I felt would be a good match. I was especially impressed with **American Financial Group, Inc.** I read the Operating Philosophy and could relate my own personal values to those held by the company: *"Accountability, Family, Integrity in All We Do, Loyalty, Respect for Others, Self-Discipline, and Trustworthiness."* Unethical accounting practices had been in the headlines, and I understood the importance of integrity in accounting and all areas of business. I looked forward to working in an environment of high standards.

As the start of the summer internship in the tax department at AFG drew near, I became nervous about my lack of experience and knowledge. I had taken only one accounting course in college and was now expected to file federal and state tax returns! I was feeling overwhelmed, but my first day at AFG quickly calmed my fears. The friendly and welcoming environment made assimilation into the department a painless task.

Kim Baird, the Assistant Vice President, stressed the importance of feeling comfortable with asking for assistance from any of the 32 tax department employees. He explained how everyone worked cooperatively to complete the corporate income federal returns on schedule for AFG subsidiaries.

Barb Hardin volunteered to be my mentor and spent countless hours introducing me to federal returns and the software programs. The tax department works not only with the employees within the company, but with contacts at affiliated companies. Communication is an integral component in completing a return. I have been able to expand my skills in communication and to work cooperatively to achieve a common goal.

After completing my federal return schedule, I prepared state income returns for the remainder of the

Internship. The days of summer flew by, and I readily accepted the offer to return in the spring as an official co-op student.

For my co-op quarter, I had to become reacquainted with the software and the returns I had filed the previous summer. Once I began working on returns, it all came back and I once again felt comfortable with AFG. I have been given increasingly more difficult returns to prepare. Not only did I take pleasure in my work, but I felt privileged to be a part of **American Financial Group**, a company highly regarded in the Cincinnati community.

I am pleased to be associated with a company that has contributed so much to our community. The generous donations to charitable organizations, the support for Cincinnati's Great American Ballpark, the financial assistance given the Carl H. Lindner Honors-PLUS program, and the belief in co-op students from the College of Business make **American Financial Group** a respected company and an ideal co-op placement.

Lisa Morris

## Items of Interest

**Carly Weiler** (Fr), won the RHA (Residence Hall Association) election. She will be the new President of the RHA for the upcoming school year. The RHA is the governing body of all the residence halls at UC. They serve as a representative body of the residence hall students and meet student concerns/needs and sponsor programs and activities for the residents. Some activities they did this year include: sponsoring Rae Lewis Thornton to come speak about AIDS, end of the year cookout, canned food drive, laser tag, and a trip to Kings Island.

**Don Hunter** (Fr), was named "Outstanding Student Leader" at UC. This was announced at the May 16th University Awards Ceremony.

**Sarah Harvey** (Fr), was also named "Outstanding Student Leader" at UC. This was announced at the May 16th University Awards Ceremony.

**Ashley Dugan** (Pre-Jr), was inducted into the Mortar Board Society.

**CORRECTION:** In Mays newsletter I mistakenly reported that Ashley Dugan was selected as student President for her Beta Gamma Sigma Chapter. That should have been **Ashley Cannon**. Sorry Ashley(s) for the mistake.

## Alumni Corner

**Gabrielle Grimaldi**, Class of 2003, is currently working at a bank in New Orleans, but is just about to embark on an exciting career change. She is starting a program called "Teach Greater New Orleans". Professionals from every arena were invited to apply. Gabe was accepted into the program, and will go to school for 2 intensive months, 40 hours a week in June and July. In August she will be placed in a classroom in a low-performing school district. This program is targeted at recruiting people who will help turn the struggling New Orleans school districts around. Gabe says this is going to be quite a challenge, but she's ready for it!

**Susan Winterberg**, Class of 2002, is rapidly approaching the end of her first year of graduate school at Harvard. She's just finishing up a 4 month project on the Korean Demilitarized Zone. The North Korean government is setting up a Special Economic Zone (an industrial complex for manufacturing facilities for a couple hundred South Korean companies who want to use North Korean labor) inside the DMZ and a team consisting of Susan, other graduate students, and a few professors have been over in Korea developing recommendations on how to accommodate the growth that will happen when the complex opens early next year.

This summer Susan will be heading back to Washington to be a researcher at the Brookings Institution. She will be working on a project on "Weak Market Cities" which will formulate strategies to attract investment into mid-sized mostly Midwestern cities with declining industrial bases, focusing on the role universities can play in economic growth. She is doing her concentration in graduate school in regional political economy and economic development planning, which looks at how governments should be making decisions about which industries/companies to provide assistance to and how. This is an incredible opportunity to work with very respected scholars on this topic.

If you would like to know more about either of these projects, you can contact Susan at [swinterb@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:swinterb@gsd.harvard.edu)

## July Birthdays

Jeri Ricketts	July 4
Greg McElfresh	July 9
Emily Piening	July 13
Donna Fisher	July 17
Nicole Meyer	July 18
Shene' Edwards	July 18
Charles Kishman	July 22
Jessica Young	July 25

