

Celebrating Diversity

One participant described it as a “banner event,” and no wonder. The Tuck Diversity Conference, now in its 12th year, attracted more than 150 current students, prospective students, alumni, and visiting executives to network, enjoy minicourses with Tuck faculty, explore career options, and even discover some of the finer points of wine.

This year’s event, held November 9–12, also celebrated 40 years of diversity at Tuck. The school marked the occasion by honoring marketing executive and author Herbert Kemp T’66, the first African American to graduate from Tuck, with the Trailblazer Award. Morgan Stanley Associate Ramsey Jay T’05, who spoke about leadership at the event, says he has long admired Kemp’s pioneering spirit and notes that the conference “serves as a catalyst for Tuck’s continued success in preparing

the next generation of leaders to lead in an increasingly diverse world.”

The conference has become a popular event at Tuck since it was founded in 1993 by Scott C. Johnston T’93. “One of my original objectives was to increase the number of African American students who apply to the school, and that’s happening,” Johnston says. “I also wanted to more fully engage Tuck’s minority alumni—to get them to become advocates for the school and help them recruit additional minority students.” Johnston adds that he’s encouraged by the increasing number of alumni who stay connected to Tuck by attending the conference each year.

Tuck Overseer Pamela Scott T’75, president of LVCC, Inc., is among the alumni who have attended many of the previous diversity conferences. She believes the conference provides the Tuck community with a more personal connection to minority MBA candidates.

“It’s something only the few other MBA programs who hold these weekends can do,” she notes. “It adds to our special top-tier school status.”

The 2006 conference featured presentations by Carla Harris, managing director in global capital markets at Morgan Stanley; Earnest Partners CEO Paul E. Viera; and Mansa Equity Partners CEO and Chair Ruben King-Shaw Jr.

Event sponsors included Morgan Stanley as well as Bank of America, John Deere, Lehman Brothers, UBS, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and PepsiCo. Ten Tuck offices and student clubs provided additional support.

WEB Online extra—Diversity Conference slideshow: www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/today

LaCorte Case Series

How do different industries apply information technology to enrich their corporate strategy? Does IT actually shape business processes? To find out, Tuck has established the Vincent L. LaCorte Case Series. Supported by a three-year gift from Blair LaCorte T’90, the series will feature business cases researched and written by affiliates of Tuck’s Center for Digital Strategies.

LaCorte, a Texas Pacific Group Ventures partner, named the series after his father, a respected businessman and mentor who passed away in 2006. “My father long believed that technology not only changed the way companies could do business but also the way business leaders think,” says LaCorte.

Professor and Center Director Eric Johnson agrees. “We’re seeing a shift in the view of technology as a separate entity or business unit within a company to something integral to the business that leadership must deal with every day,” he says. “CEOs, CFOs, and other senior executives understand that information technology can have a great impact on



Pamela Scott T’75 presented Herb Kemp T’66, the first African American to graduate from Tuck, with the Trailblazer Award.

MARK WASHBURN



Blair LaCorte T'90 has established a case series in honor of his father.

the business—strategic IT can improve management of operations in a global marketplace, enable integration among supply chain partners, or create revenue opportunities in customer service.”

The cases will look at how companies beyond traditional technology startups are using information technology to shape business processes and strategy. They will also review best practices across industries, including medical devices, food services, pharmaceuticals, retail, publishing, and even humanitarian relief.

“These cases bring leading-edge thinking about digital strategies into the classroom,” says Johnson. “They can prepare business students to become better managers and better leaders in the ever-evolving networked economy.” Many cases from this series have already been widely adopted by top business schools throughout the country. Recent cases on Agile Software, Biogen, HP, Mattel, Steinway, and Savi Technology have been taught at Tuck, Duke, Harvard, Michigan, Stanford, and Wharton.

Like his father, LaCorte has long been involved in teaching and mentoring. He sits on the board of the Graduate Business Foundation and Tuck’s MBA advisory board and funds a scholarship at the Marin Education Fund. LaCorte has received numerous industry honors, including being named one of the Top Ten Business Marketers by *Business Marketing* and *Advertising Age* magazines.

“In naming this series after my father, I hope to continue his lifelong mission to educate the next generation of thought leaders,” says LaCorte. “What’s really great is that business students have an opportunity to help write these cases—so they can witness firsthand how organizations are changing the way they think about technology, end-to-end process, and strategy.”

Women in Business

Connections: Create them, develop them, support them. That was the theme of the second annual Women in Business conference, held October 5–6

at Tuck. More than 200 female professionals—including prospective and current students, Tuck partners, faculty, and alumnae—took part in panel discussions and workshops dedicated to developing strong skill sets, networks, and mentor/mentee relationships. The event was coordinated by the Tuck Women in Business club.

The enthusiasm and involvement of the more than 25 alumnae who participated in meetings, panels, and breakout sessions was much appreciated. Audrey Kania T’90, co-founder of the World Poker Tour, delivered the keynote address. In an overview of her own life and career, she described how one can find a niche in the business community by embracing new challenges and change.

“The conference generated immense enthusiasm,” says Sonali Aggarwal T’07, conference co-chair. “Prospectives and alumnae traveled from across the United States—and as far away as the Netherlands—to attend! Our keynote speaker flew in from California. This underscores the opportunities that such a forum provides to women business leaders at various stages of their careers.”



Prospective students and alumni traveled from across the country and Europe to attend this year’s Women in Business conference.

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