

Inside THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The School of Business recently announced the appointment of Dr. Jacob Chacko as Dean of the School of Business. He will replace Ernest 'Bud' Miller, who is retiring from Clayton State University.

Miller insists that he is not retiring; rather he is merely, "going on to the next chapter." While there are



plans for more time with the grandchildren, Miller serves on the board of three different companies, and it seems they want more of his time. A

Harvard MBA, Miller came to the University with an impressive corporate background, perhaps the most notable being the turn-around of Penn Central and restructuring of the real estate giant Arvida.

Miller grew up in a Massachusetts mill town, raised by his mother, Lucy Miller, and his grandmother, Mary Gately. His mother worked as a clerk and Mrs. Gately worked as a housekeeper for the same family for a number of years. Miller would sometimes go with his grandmother and polish the brass and silver for the family. Mrs. Gately taught Miller, "there are two types of people in the world, those who own brass and those who polish the brass. The difference is education." So it's not surprising that even with all his corporate accomplishments, Miller insists that "other than my family, what we have achieved at

Clayton State is the most important accomplishment of my life. I have turned around big companies, but that is nothing compared to working toward reinventing and remaking a top business school to prepare our students for successful careers and lives upon graduation."

Under Miller's leadership, The School of Business achieved AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation, launched an MBA program, started the construction of a state-of-the-art building for the School, and assembled a world-class faculty headed by Associate Dean Jacob Chacko.

When Dr. Thomas K. Harden, President of Clayton State, arrived at the University in June of 2000, it was the team of Miller and Chacko that approached Harden with the idea of working toward the AACSB accreditation that would provide the road map to reinvent the School. Harden recalls, "their plan was ambitious, but was so well done and so in line with what I wanted to see at the University, I was immediately able to endorse it and support the plan wholeheartedly. Year by year we met and looked over the plans. These guys were always right on target."

For Harden, the transition from Miller to Chacko as Dean of the School of Business is ideal. He points to the fact that the two have worked together as a team for many years, sharing a similar vision, philosophy, and methodology. Harden finds that Chacko has his own style, "but we're in great hands because we'll see a continuance of the things we have come to value. I am honored to have been able to work with Bud Miller.

He has made great contributions to the University, and we will miss him personally and professionally. I like him very much. I can say the same things about Jacob. We are in a position to make a big change with a smooth transition where we will lose none of our momentum. I have great confidence in Jacob. In many ways, I think the best is yet to come."

Prior to joining the School of Business, Chacko was the Associate



Dean for Academics in the College of Business and Public Administration at the University of North Dakota. His background is as academic as

Miller's is corporate. Chacko received his bachelor's degree in accounting from India, bachelor's and master's degrees in marketing from Nairobi, Kenya and the UK, respectively, and doctorate of business administration in marketing and international business from John Marshall School of Management in San Diego. He is a graduate of the Management Development Program from Harvard University, and was a Fulbright-Hays scholar to Singapore and Malaysia.

Chacko's plans for the future of the School of Business are knitted tightly with the School's vision to be increasingly recognized throughout the Southeast for high quality programs, quality graduates, and a willingness to

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meet the needs of the business community. According to Chacko, "We aspire to that vision through our mission of preparing a diverse student body for business and professional careers. For this we have to recruit, retain, and graduate good students; recruit and retain talented faculty; and build partnerships with the business community. The key to accomplishing these directives is to build a positive and succinct brand in our service area."

For Chacko, this branding begins with the idea that "Education is not a cost, it's an investment." One of his first priorities is to make sure that all stakeholders understand and appreciate the superior value they receive from Clayton State. "We provide a private school education for a public school price. We provide a superior return on investment to our students by providing relatively small class sizes, mostly taught by doctorally qualified fulltime faculty at a tuition level that is one of the lowest among public universities in the nation. To ensure student transition to professional careers, we are diligently building relationships with local corporations."

Chacko plans to institute a major recruiting program, taking this message of value into the local high schools to attract quality undergraduates into the School of Business. In addition, to retain talented faculty to support these students, the School is working to establish competitive salaries, consulting opportunities, and greater research and development support.

Also part of the mission is to provide a student-centered environment, using technology to enhance student learning. The School's new state-of-the-art building certainly supports this goal. Chacko also has plans to enhance career development advisement for the students, to create a speaker series to augment traditional classes, and to form a student advisory board to help faculty and staff understand the "pulse" of the student body. The School also plans to create a discipline specific advisory board to help faculty stay abreast of what the School needs to teach.

Chacko also points out that the School is committed to serving Atlanta's metropolitan community. "This makes us unique. If you look at the other universities in town, their focus is interna-

tional – global. Our focus is metro Atlanta. We want to understand and [respond] to the needs of employers here." Because of this focus, the School continues to develop its emphasis on supply chain management, a major selling point for the School's new MBA program, and is exploring other areas of interest. Chacko plans to actively look to the community to find out what the School is doing well and could do better so that Clayton students will be prepared with skills that local businesses need.

Replacing Chacko as the Associate Dean of the School of Business is Dr. Diane Prince. Dr. Prince is completing her duties as Program Chair for the business program at Troy University-Augusta before joining the Clayton State team in January. As Bud Miller plans his departure, Chacko says he will miss Miller's friendship and leadership in the School of Business, but he is also excited about creating a new partnership: "Dr. Prince is extremely experienced and has leadership qualities that will make her a great asset to the school. We're all looking forward to her joining us."

FACULTY OF THE YEAR HONORED



Lou Jourdan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Management
Professor of the Year
"It's always gratifying to be recognized for one's efforts and contribution to our school, and to particularly be recognized by my peers, for whom I have a great deal of respect."



Greg Kordecki, C.P.A.
Associate Professor of Accounting
Outstanding Service Award
"This award represents my colleagues' recognition of all the work I do behind the scenes... the accumulation of my service to the students, university, and external stakeholders."



Margaret Thompson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Management
Teacher of the Year
"Many of us have worked very hard over the past year, and were deserving...I feel like this validates my efforts as a teacher and as a coach to my students."



Lari Arjomand, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics
Researcher of the Year
"Over the past year I have focused on conducting the highest quality research...this award affirms that my colleagues recognize my accomplishments."