From the Dean

Said simply, the Price College’s PhD program is on the move. In addition to its growth in size and stature, the Price PhD program lies at the center of our ability to fulfill the college’s purpose, “The Purpose of Price,” to ensure the enduring global competitiveness of Oklahoma and the nation. To this end, Price College is laser-focused on fostering the symbiotic Faculty/PhD student partnerships necessary to generate valuable insights into the most significant business issues of our time as we develop the future leaders the academe and society need to help organizations to become more effective, efficient, and enduring. Recently, our excellence was nationally recognized by our accrediting body, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), during the college’s 2015 continuation of accreditation review in which the strength of our PhD program experience and student placements were cited for their remarkable effectiveness given the size and resource intensity of our program. Thanks to each of you for all you do to support this strategic and flourishing program. Please enjoy the contents of this newsletter and congratulations to our PhD program faculty, staff, and students.

Best,

Daniel
Our doctoral program continues to be very successful. In addition to our ongoing doctoral programs in accounting, finance, management, marketing and supply chain management and MIS we are now recruiting doctoral in the doctoral program in our newly created division of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.

Ten students matriculated this fall with an average incoming GMAT (or GRE equivalent) of 694. As of fall 2015 we had a total of 35 doctoral students enrolled in the program, representing a wide range of diversity in backgrounds and interests. Through the Intro to Academe program sponsored by our PhD coordinators, the students have the opportunity to interact not only in with students in their own academic area, but with all doctoral students in the college.

This year’s distinguished lecturer was Sue Ashford, the Michael and Susan Jandernoa Professorship in the Management and Organization at the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. She presented a public lecture, “Leadership Construction in Organizations and Teams,” where she discussed research streams in the areas of leadership and teams and met with Price College doctoral students and faculty during a two day visit.

We also hosted our annual spring lunch reception recognizing our graduating doctoral students as well. It was wonderful to hear the accomplishments of our graduating students and have the opportunity to hear from their dissertation chairs and faculty mentors. We have had excellent placements in recent years in the doctoral program.

The current cohort of Price College doctoral students show exceptional promise. Students have presented papers at national and international conferences, and several have had research papers accepted for publications, some in top tier academic journals.
ACCOUNTING

Lixuan Zhu

Lixuan Zhu received his Bachelor of International Economics from Shanghai University of International Business and Economics. Prior to joining the Price College of Business to pursue his master’s and doctoral degrees, Lixuan worked for KPMG in Shanghai and a local management consulting firm. His specialization is financial archival research with a major interest in capital markets, financial reporting quality, and corporate government research. Lixuan aspires to become an accounting professor and make intellectual contributions to the business world.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Robert Pidduck

Robert Pidduck earned his bachelor’s degree in Marketing Management at Oxford Brookes University and his master’s in International Management at Nottingham University. Prior to starting his doctoral studies at Price, Rob lived and worked in mainland China launching two small ventures and teaching training courses to Chinese businesspeople. His research interests include crowdfunding, opportunity formation and international entrepreneurship.

FINANCE

Amal Abeysekera

Amal Abeysekera holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in Sri Lanka. Prior to pursuing his doctoral studies, he worked as a tutor at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Amal is currently exploring research related to bankruptcy as well as research that incorporates network analysis. In his spare time, Amal plays first violin in the University of Oklahoma Civic Orchestra.
Diego Leal Gonzalez

Diego Leal Gonzalez earned a Bachelor’s degree in Production Engineering (Cum Laude) from the Simón Bolívar University in Caracas, Venezuela and his Masters in Finance from the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. In addition, Diego completed courses in Industrial Engineering at the Karlsruher Institut für Technologie in Karlsruhe, Germany. Prior to pursuing his doctorate, Diego interned for Siemens in Munich, Germany and worked in equity research for Howe and Rusling in Rochester, New York. Diego’s research interests include corporate finance, bond valuation and liquidity.

Gabriele Lattanzio

Gabriele Lattanzio received his Bachelor’s degree in Finance and Economics with a concentration in Risk Management and Insurance from Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. While in his Bachelor’s program in 2008, he studied Finance at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China as an exchange student. Gabriele received his Master’s degree in Economics from the Norwegian School of Economics in Bergen, Norway in 2015. His professional experience includes working as a money market broker in Paris, France, and in the risk management department of an Italian bank. His research interests are in the areas of law, finance, bankruptcy and financial contagion.

Annie Tian

Annie Tian holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China as well as a Master of Science degree in Management Information Technology from the University of Oklahoma. She has multiple years of work experience at Societe Generale Investment Bank providing technical and administrative support to clients trading in the global financial market. Her latest research interests include the impact of data visualization, cyber security and phishing detection, and security management for financial corporations. In her spare time, Annie loves to spend time with her two-year-old son and enjoys classical music.
MANAGEMENT

Becky Burink
Becky Burink received her Bachelor of Arts in Hotel and Restaurant Administration and Master of Business Administration from Washington State University. Prior to pursuing her doctorate, Becky worked as an account manager with Ford Motor Credit Company. Her research interests include organizational citizenship behaviors, leadership and leader succession.

Brandi McManus
Brandi McManus earned her Bachelor of Science degree from University of Oklahoma in Environmental Engineering and her Master’s in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University. Prior to pursuing her doctorate, Brandi held many leadership and executive positions at a Fortune 300 company. Her current research interests include strategic decision making, leadership behavior, and social networks within teams.

Shane Reid
Shane Reid received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and Master of Science in Human Resource Development from Texas A&M University. Prior to pursuing his doctorate, Shane worked as a management consultant in the oil and gas industry, leading a variety of engagements focusing on change management, organizational design and realignment, and process improvement. In addition, he also helped launch a small, boutique management consulting firm in Houston, TX. His research areas of interest include organizational behavior, corporate strategy, and entrepreneurship.
Price College Recent Placements

2016
Herita Akamah, University of Nebraska
Qing Shu, San Diego State University
Olalekan K. Seriki, Angelo State University
Emre Yetgin, Rider University

2015
John Baur, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Matthew Cobabe, Virginia Tech
Inchan Kim, Utah State University
Fang Lin, Pittsburgh State University
Ashley Newton, University of Oklahoma
Jama Summers, University of Tennessee
Nan (Tina) Wang, Eastern Illinois University
Lisa Yang, Montana State University
Amber Young, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Aaron Gleiberman, Louisiana State University

2014
Fan Chen, Portland State University
Andrew Collins, University of South Carolina
Sung Won Kim, University of Illinois
Shuai Ma, American University
Aaron McKenny, University of Central Florida
Thomas Allison, Washington State University

2013
Nick Bartkoski, Ball State University
Kate Holland, Purdue University
Sharon Huang, Ball State University
Anthony Klotz, Oregon State University

2012
Greg McCamus, Western Kentucky University
Hyo-Jin (Jean) Jeon, University of Nevada-Reno
Kenneth Bills, Colorado State University
Sanaz Aghazadeh, Lehigh University
Kevin Rhoads, Utah Valley University
Veljko Fotak, University of Buffalo
Vikas Raman, University of Warwick (UK)

2011
Yun Fan, University of Houston
Sridhar Gogineni, University of Wyoming
Maria Hamdani, University of Akron
Dong Kim, University of Northern Ohio
Yong-Kwan Lim, SKEMA
Anthony May, Wichita State University
Ali Shahzad, James Madison University
Sorin Valcea, Washburn University
Amber Whisenhunt, University of Akron

2010
Scott Grawe, Iowa State University
Jaron Harvey, University of Alabama
Shirley Hsieh, Florida Atlantic University
Hem Mpundu, University of Northern Iowa

2009
Aaron Becker, Baylor University
Timothy Hart, Oklahoma State University
Duong Le, University of Arkansas – Little Rock
Brad Lail, North Carolina State University
Why did you pursue a PhD?

After spending four years as a Banking Associate for a multinational financial services institution in Africa, I encountered some problems with the way that managers practice marketing. I decided that if marketing can be practiced ineffectively, I would like to understand how it could be done in an effective way. So, I entered the MBA program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill to learn more about the different aspects of the field of marketing. While working on my MBA, I realized that pursuing a PhD would afford me the opportunity to explore and to better understand the problems I’ve encountered in the way marketing is practiced. In addition, I realized that I can use the insights I get from my research and from research of top scholars in the field to inspire future business leaders through teaching. In other words, my interest in understanding what works and what doesn’t in the practice of marketing influenced my interest in pursuing a PhD.

Why did you choose OU?

I chose OU for my PhD for a few reasons. When I was researching schools, I discovered that the marketing and supply chain management faculty at OU is focused mainly on Business-to-Business marketing - the aspect of marketing I’m interested in. Also, because I had no research background I wanted a relatively small PhD program that is dedicated to PhD student development. I found out that this is exactly what the marketing division at OU is. During my search period, I also discovered that the marketing department at OU has a good number of top scholars in the field of marketing. Hence, I came to OU because I wanted to learn from the best scholars in the field.

What is Norman like?

I love Norman because the town has provided me with the best environment to pursue my PhD program and also to raise my young family. Norman has a good number of African students and families, which really makes it home away from home for most of us. This is in addition to the low cost of living, good schools for kids, safe environment, and accessibility to bigger cities like OKC and Dallas.

Did you have prior research experience?

No, I did not have any prior research experience before coming to OU.

What has the quality of mentoring been like?

The marketing department here at OU takes student mentoring very seriously and the quality of mentoring is top-notch. I like the fact that I was assigned to faculty members for research and teaching mentorship from day one. This really helped me to understand what I was getting myself into very early in the program. As early as the second semester of my first year, I was a co-author of a manuscript that was accepted for presentation at the marketing field flagship academic conference – AMA Marketing Educators’ Conference.
Student Profile: Olalekan Siriki

I think this is a testament of how the faculty is interested in helping students to become their best possible.

What have you enjoyed most about the program?

I really enjoyed the opportunity that my mentors provided me to start working with them on projects from day one. In addition, I enjoyed the camaraderie among PhD students in Price College of Business. While we are from different divisions in the College of Business, we’re still close enough to encourage one another and to find time to meet socially outside school. Actually, I’ve become friends with some alumni (both in marketing and other divisions) who have graduated from Price College in previous years.

How have you been supported in your job search?

I received outstanding support from the department while I was on the job market. Particularly, my dissertation committee members were very supportive in terms of the time they spent discussing with me what schools would be a good fit for me. Also, when the chair of my dissertation committee (Dr. Dant) passed, I was surprised and equally grateful at the speed that the department provided me with a worthy replacement in the person of Dr. Ingene. Finally, at every school that I went to interview, my interviewers repeatedly commented on how my references (Dr. Ingene, Dr. Evans, and Dr. Nath) responded speedily to every request they sent. Dr. Ingene, Dr. Nath, and Dr. Schmidt really helped me to fine-tune my job talk and interview etiquette.

How have you been supported in your research?

From my day one in the program I have been engaged actively in research with different faculty members. The department has a process where PhD students are assigned to work with a new faculty member every academic year. This provides us students the opportunity to learn about research from different perspectives. Also, this provides students the opportunity of multiple potential co-authorships in the course of our program. In addition to working with multiple faculty members, the department is always willing to provide resources to support our exposure to works of other researchers through funding of conference attendance, consortium, and inviting top scholars from other schools. Finally, every software that we need to conduct research is always provided by the department.

What is your best accomplishment?

I am very pleased to have a paper accepted for publication at the European Journal of Marketing. I am proud because I am the first author on the paper and my late mentor (Dr. Dant) is my coauthor.

How has the teaching experience been?

I really enjoyed the opportunity to teach at OU. Prior to teaching my first class, I was a Teaching Assistant (TA) for two marketing classes where I learned how to help struggling students during office hours and how to handle administrative aspects of teaching, e.g., grading. When I was assigned my own class, the experiences I had gathered as a TA really came to bare. Also, the department ensures that PhD students are not entirely on their own when they teach by providing mentorship and regularly discussing class evaluations.
**Student Profile: Herita Akamah**

**Why did you pursue a PhD?**

From a very early age, I began explaining class material to my classmates after class. I remember the great feeling of helping my fellow classmates go from failing a class to excelling at the class. So, I knew I would enjoy teaching but didn't know much about research. I was lucky enough to take an Accounting Ph.D. seminar while I was getting a masters in Accounting at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL). After this seminar, I knew that I would also love the research aspect of being a professor. To top it off, the faculty at UNL advised me to consider a career in academia, pointing out that I held much “promise”. In a nutshell, I decided to pursue a Ph.D. because I enjoy teaching and research and I encountered faculty who encouraged me to pursue this career path.

**Why did you choose OU?**

I chose OU because its faculty members are renowned researchers. Most importantly, these researchers have advised a good number of doctoral students, who are now very successful in academia. Hence, I chose OU because I wanted to be mentored by the best. In addition, the faculty mentors from UNL highly recommended OU, stating that I will be in good hands.

**What is Norman like?**

Norman has very friendly people. It is quiet but not deserted, which makes it great for focusing on school. It is however close enough to Oklahoma City and Dallas, which means that you can always get the much needed distractions when you want them. Norman is also open to helping newcomers. My parents recently came to the U.S. from Africa, and the Norman people have gone above and beyond to help them in so many aspects of their life. Many people in Norman hold a special place in my heart for the great kindness they’ve shown me and my family over the past five years.

**Did you have prior research experience?**

As I mentioned, I took one Ph.D. seminar while getting a masters. I was also a graduate research assistant during this program. I would say that I had a little introduction to research, but didn't have any substantial research experience.

**What has the quality of mentoring been like?**

I would rate the quality of mentoring to be greater than 5 out of 5. My advisor, Dr. Wayne Thomas, has been particularly exceptional at mentoring and continues to mentor even now that I graduated. The OU faculty in general have an “open door” policy, meaning that they are accessible to anyone who needs advice. The faculty interact quite frequently with students, even when students are very shy and apprehensive about initiating such interactions. It is very clear that ALL faculty are interested in the success of doctoral students and offer help whenever the opportunity arises.

**What have you enjoyed most about the program?**

I have enjoyed the collaborative spirit among both faculty and doctoral students. OU does
not admit many students and let them compete for resources, which would create a “cut throat” environment. This means that students encourage the success of their colleagues and help when the need arises. I have really enjoyed the camaraderie with my colleagues: we have truly shared in each other’s pains and joys.

**How have you been supported in your job search?**

I had several layers of support when I went on the job market. Beginning with my job market paper, my advisor, Dr. Wayne Thomas, asked a lot of probing questions from the birth of the dissertation idea, effectively preparing me for the job market. The most junior faculty shared their experiences on the job market as well as the relevant knowledge they had gathered about the job search process. In addition, the faculty on my dissertation committee helped me identify schools that are a good fit for me and were very open to reaching out to their contacts at these schools on my behalf. They were also very generous in promptly writing recommendation letters for me. Finally, the faculty took time out of their numerous responsibilities to offer guidance, support, and feedback on my job talk. In short, I received outstanding support in my job search.

**How have you been supported in your research?**

The research support has been overwhelming. The faculty at OU trained me on how to become a good researcher and did not simply feed me projects. However, they did not completely leave me on my own to survive, but were always there to guide. The faculty read and offered feedback on my different research endeavors. They connected me with renowned researchers in other schools who have, in turn, helped me advance my research in numerous ways. OU provided full support in terms of finances and opportunities to present my research at in-house workshops and outside conferences. They purchased costly databases and created opportunities for me to earn research fellowships. I have received PLENTY of research support from OU.

**What is your best accomplishment?**

My best accomplishments are the “best paper” awards. I won these awards on two papers with senior co-authors and on two papers with my classmate. These accomplishments are in part due to my hard work. However, they are largely a product of the great mentoring that I have received from the faculty at OU, senior co-authors, and my advisor, Dr. Wayne Thomas.

**How has the teaching experience been?**

My teaching experience at OU has been great. The faculty shared their teaching material but allowed me to customize. The students are very respectful and hard working. Overall, OU gave me sufficient opportunities to teach so I could be effective in the classroom right after graduation. However, OU also made sure that I was not overloaded with teaching, leaving little time for research.
Introduction to Academe Program

Preparation of Students for Academic Careers

Introduction to Academe provides students with an overview of what a PhD program is all about and prepares the students for their academic careers. The intention is to help students survive and thrive in the OU PhD program – and start to develop the necessary skills for succeeding in academia.

During the course of the first year in the doctoral program, new students have the opportunity to gain insights and advice from Price College faculty members. The primary components of the Introduction to Academe program are an orientation session, a seminar series and the Price College Distinguished Lecturer Series.

Prelude Week Orientation

The week before classes start, all entering doctoral students take part in a half-day orientation session. Members of the College PhD Committee and other OU faculty welcome new students and provide an overview of the program. Relevant policies and procedures including the doctoral student evaluation process, international TA policies and formation of curriculum and dissertation committees are discussed. The session includes an interactive question-and-answer session. Students also have an opportunity to meet continuing doctoral students.

Introduction to Academe Seminar Series

During the first year, students attend Intro to Academe seminars (usually three seminars during the fall semester and two during the spring semester). Content includes advice on the profession, teaching and research. While the content is updated and modified by faculty presenters each year, the seminar series generally covers the following topics:

Profession-related issues: Profile of the work of an academic; balancing teaching, research and service; getting an academic job; resume building; networking, conferences, doctoral consortiums and journal reviewing; promotion and tenure processes; and career mobility and successful career strategies.

Teaching-related issues: Developing and structuring a course (content, assignments and assessment); designing a syllabus; teaching skills; grading; classroom management and handling special requests; academic dishonesty and appeals processes; and students with special needs.

Research-related issues: Discussion of why we do research and publishing research; where to find research topics; becoming proficient at writing scholarly articles; guidelines for submitting and reviewing journals; editorial processes in peer-review journals; revising a manuscript; research ethics; and being an effective reviewer/discussant.
Each year the Price College PhD Program hosts a Distinguished Lecturer – a researcher with significant accomplishments in his or her field of study. The lecturers share the secrets of their success with Price College PhD students and offer advice. The 2015-2016 Distinguished Lecturer, who visited OU in March 2016, was Professor Sue Ashford, Professor of Management and Organization at the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Professor Ashford holds the Michael and Susan Jandernoa Professorship and has also served as a Senior Associate Dean, Associate Dean for Leadership Development Programming, and faculty director of the Executive MBA program. She earned her MS and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University and has taught in executive development programs at The University of Michigan, Dartmouth College, Duke University, and for Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson, and Whirlpool Corporations. She has consulted to various organizations, including General Electric and Merrill Lynch and has also served as a trainer for the management simulation project at New York University, training executives from various organizations in strategic and interpersonal skills. During her visit, Professor Ashford interacted with Price College PhD students multiple times, including included a private lunch with first-year PhD students at the University Club and a faculty-wide presentation of her paper: “Leadership Construction in Organizations and Teams.”

Dr. Pradeep Yadav’s paper with two former OU doctoral students was published in the Journal of Financial Economics and was featured in Financial Times. Dr. Yadav is a professor of finance at Price College and the W. Ross Johnston Chair, as well as chairman of the European Finance Association. The paper is available at the following link: http://ftalphaville.ft.com/2015/04/22/2127351/the-benefits-of-naked-shorting/.
Publications & Conference Presentations


Akamah, H., Omer, T., & Shu, Q. (2016). Debt financing constraints, managerial debt holdings, and tax outcome variability. Paper presented at the AAA Southwest Regional Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK. (Best Paper Award)


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Publications & Conference Presentations Cont...


Black, Jeff


Akamah, H., & Shu, Q. (2016). Large shareholder portfolio diversification and corporate voluntary disclosures. Paper presented at the AAA Southwest Regional Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK.


Akamah, H., Omer, T., & Shu, Q. (2016). Debt financing constraints, managerial debt holdings, and tax outcome variability. Paper presented at the AAA Southwest Regional Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK. (Best Paper Award)


Thomas, W., & Shu, Q. (2015). Managerial equity holdings and income smoothing incentives. Paper presented at the AAA Southwest Regional Meeting, Houston, TX. (Distinguished Paper Award)


Shu, Q. (2016). Manager-debtholder alignment and opportunistic income smoothing. Paper presented at the AAA Southwest Regional Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK.


2015-2016 Awards and Grants

Ahn, Jaehan
Price College Research Excellence Award, 2016.

Akamah, Herita
Bullard Competitive Fellowship, 2015-2016.

Black, Jeff
Outstanding Service and Citizenship Award, 2015.

Brockbank, Bryan

Seriki, Olalekan