Letter from the Executive Director

Hello Everyone,

Happy Valentine’s Day! As we go to press, mid-term exams are in full swing and students are focused on classes, studying and creating new ventures! We continue the countdown to semester conversion as we mark our last Winter Quarter before the change August 27, 2012.

The 2012 Reality Check Crosstown Challenge undergraduate business plan competition, January 27, 2012, was a huge success. It featured teams from Miami, NKU, UC, and Xavier. Read all about the UC team, Tek Tak, taking 1st Runner-Up and $2,500 below. In its first two years, UC students have taken a 1st and 1st Runner-Up prize.

On the graduate student front, the 8th Annual UC Spirit of Enterprise Graduate Business Plan Competition announced the 16 teams competing from top programs across North America. You can read the full list by clicking the link below (Johns Hopkins, Michigan, Oregon, Indiana, Louisville, Purdue, and UC, to name a few). I had the privilege of appearing on The Expert Access Radio Show on 55 WKRC on Super Bowl Sunday where, among other topics, I spoke about the excitement of the Spirit of Enterprise on February 23 and 24, 2012 at Cincom Systems World Headquarters. It will be a great opportunity for the teams to showcase their talent and Cincinnati to showcase what a great place it is to start a business.

Congratulations to Dr. Tom Dalziel, assistant professor of entrepreneurship in the Lindner College of Business, on being awarded the prestigious Leavey Award for excellence in private enterprise education. It comes as no surprise, given the outstanding job he has done leading our undergraduate entrepreneurship student classes and competitions. In fact, in this issue, you can read about more success on the Small Business Institute® front, as well
SoMoLend Opens Office in Downtown Cincinnati

SAVE THE DATE

UC Spirit of Enterprise Graduate Business Plan Competition
February 23 & 24, 2012
***************
14th Annual Entrepreneurship Recognition Banquet
Thursday, May 10, 2012
McCormick & Schmick's Downtown, Cincinnati

Miss A Past Issue of E-News & Views? Click Here

E-Center Board of Advisors
Chairman: Tim Fogarty
West Chester Holdings
Vice Chair: Bill Keating, Jr.
Keating Muething Klekamp PLL
Past Chair: as team Tek-Tak.

Also, you will want to check out the story on Tom Nies, BBA '62, MBA '68, founder, president & CEO of Cincom Systems, Inc. on being awarded the Carl H. Lindner Award for Outstanding Business Achievement. He is an extraordinary entrepreneur and tireless supporter of UC Entrepreneurship.

Be sure to check out Network Notes below. From alums to current students to the growing entrepreneurship ecosystem at UC and in the community, there is something of interest for everyone.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the exciting news and stories and, as always, if you have a story idea, please send it to us at ecenter@uc.edu and we will follow-up. All the best for continued entrepreneurial success!

Charles H. Matthews, PhD

Entrepreneurship Students Take Second Place in Reality Check Competition

Congratulations to Rosalie Giesel, BBA '12, Krista Streckfuss, BBA '11, Stephanie Albers, A&S '12, and Breeana Dixon, BBA '12 (L to R), on taking 2nd Place and $2,500 in the 2nd Annual Reality Check Crosstown Undergraduate Business Plan Competition. Team Tek Tak created a patent-pending scented cell phone case as their lead-off product in their line-up of cell phone accessories. Dr. Tom Dalziel, assistant professor in entrepreneurship, served as the team's faculty advisor and coach. Giesel, Dixon and Streckfuss are majoring in entrepreneurship and Albers is minoring in entrepreneurship in the Lindner College of Business.

For more, click here

UC Spirit of Enterprise Graduate Business Plan Competition Announces 16 Semi-finalists

The UC Center for Entrepreneurship Education & Research is excited to announce the field of 16 semi-finalists from across North America who will compete for $20,000 in prizes in the 8th Annual Spirit of Enterprise Graduate Business Plan Competition on February 23 & 24, 2012. "This is an outstanding line-up of new venture concepts," commented Dr. Charles H. Matthews, executive director of the UC Center for
Entrepreneurship. "The teams can be proud to reach this exclusive stage in their ongoing entrepreneurial journey."

This is the 8th year the E-Center has partnered with Cincom Systems, Inc. for this prestigious event. Mr. Tom Nies, BBA '62, MBA '68, founder of Cincom, hosts the competition and furnishes the top prize of $10,000 for the Cincom Spirit of Enterprise Champion Award. Along with the top prize, the team also receives an automatic bid to the 2012 Venture Labs Investment Competition®.

In addition to the Cincom Champion, the 1st Runner-up Meridan Spirit Award winner will receive $3,000; the 2nd Runner-up CincyTech Venture Award winner receives $2,000; and the 3rd Runner-up Queen City Angels First Fund Award is $1,000. There are also cash prizes for Best Technology, Best Exhibit, and the infamous best pitch in the Taxi/Limo Round.

For a complete list of the 16 teams and for more information on the day's events, prizes and sponsors, click here.

Lindner College of Business Team Places in Top Three of National Small Business Institute® Case Competition

Hard work and extra effort have paid off for Lindner College of Business students Chris Foti, BBA '11, James Willis, BBA '12 and Jennifer Hacker, BBA ’11. Their experiential field case consulting team project for Daelia's Biscuits placed in the top three in the nation in the National Small Business Institute® (SBI) Case of the Year Competition. The order of the top three teams will be announced at the annual SBI Awards Luncheon at the SBI national conference on Saturday, February 18 at the La Quinta Inn & Suites, San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio, TX.

"This is an exceptional achievement for these students to make it to the top three in the country," noted Dr. Charles H. Matthews, executive director of the Center for Entrepreneurship Education & Research. "Dr. Tom Dalziel, assistant professor in entrepreneurship has done a fantastic job leading these student teams over the past five years. In the past ten years, UC teams have been in the top three every year." Stay tuned for more in the next issue of E-News & Views.
Professor Dalziel Receives Leavey Award

Thomas Dalziel, assistant professor, received the prestigious Leavey Award for excellence in private enterprise education from the Freedoms Foundation. Dalziel is the professor of Entrepreneurship and Strategic Management, Entrepreneurship Program Director for undergraduate students and incoming Small Business Institute® Director.

Celebrating its 35th year, this special program, endowed by The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation, permits Freedoms Foundation to honor educators for their innovative efforts to help young people better understand the function and benefits of America's private enterprise system.

For the complete story, click here

UC Alum Receives Carl H. Lindner Award for Outstanding Business Achievement

Congratulations to Mr. Thomas Nies, BBA '62, MBA '68, founder, president & CEO of Cincom Systems, Inc., who will receive the Carl H. Lindner Award for Outstanding Business Achievement. "Greater Cincinnati is indeed blessed to have an entrepreneur of the caliber of Mr. Tom Nies. His vision for Cincom Systems has produced an entrepreneurial start-up that has evolved into a leading business and employer in its field," commented Dr. Charles H. Matthews, executive director of the UC Center for Entrepreneurship. "His support of UC Entrepreneurship and his willingness to share his incredible experience and expertise with the student entrepreneurs of today and the future is strong testimony to his unselfish corporate and community spirit," added Matthews.

For a list of honorees, event details, and the evening's program, click here

Dr. Charles H. Matthews Discusses the Entrepreneurial Spirit on Super Bowl Sunday

On February 5, 2012, Charles H. Matthews, management professor and executive director of the UC Center for Entrepreneurship Education & Research, was the featured guest on "The Expert Access Radio Show." The weekly radio show-airing Sundays on 55KRC (WKRC 550, Cincinnati) explores the science, hard work and hilarity of business.

Matthews provided an overview of the upcoming UC Spirit of Enterprise Graduate Business Plan Competition on February 23 and 24, and talked about Ischiban, the Lindner College of Business team that will be competing.
Entrepreneurship Club Sets Agenda

The Entrepreneurship Club has set their agenda for the rest of the quarter. The club invites students to join and attend one of their regularly scheduled meetings. Click here to find a complete list of meetings and guest speakers.

If you would like to volunteer to appear as a guest speaker, please contact Gage Whitehead, president of the Entrepreneurship Club at whitehwg@mail.uc.edu.

Entrepreneurial Opportunities and Manufacturing

Professor Charles H. Matthews, executive director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, addressed the question, "Are there entrepreneurial opportunities in the manufacturing sector?" in the January 29 edition of The Cincinnati Enquirer.

For the entire story, click here

UC Team Wins Bronze at the Acara Challenge

On the social entrepreneurship front, congratulations to Professor Ratee Apana, associate professor-educator of management/international business, and her interdisciplinary team of students for winning the bronze in Minnesota at the Acara Challenge. The Acara Challenge is a competition to promote entrepreneurship and sustainable design for social change.

Team members Mark Schutte, CEAS ’13, civil engineering with a minor in sustainability; Carmen Ostermann, DAAP ’15, fine arts; Morgen Schroeder, CEAS ’13, civil engineering; and Autumn Utley, BBA ’13, marketing and international business minor and a Lindner Honors-PLUS scholar; impressed judges with their idea on recycling trash in the global challenge. The team researched ways to help improve living conditions in a small Indian village. Their sustainable product, "Renew Trash Compactor," has the ability to reduce trash, increase recycling, improve sanitation and generate income for the Padli Gujar village in India.

For the entire article, click here
Notes of Interest from the Greater Cincinnati Entrepreneurship Community

Entrepreneur & Sports Legend
Oscar Robertson Featured in The New York Times

Oscar Robertson, BBA ’60, HON ’07, sports legend, Lindner College of Business alum, and entrepreneur, can add New York Times author to his considerable list of accomplishments.

Oscar Robertson Media Ventures wrote an article for The New York Times that was published Christmas Day, concurrent with the beginning of the new NBA season titled "N.B.A. Should Honor Its History and Learn From It."

For the complete story, click here

Shannon Keesee, MBA ’96, Passionately Believes in Philosophy of Mom Corps

Entrepreneurs are always faced with challenges when it comes to staffing. Women entrepreneurs and moms often face an even higher hurdle rate in this area. Mom Corps is more than your typical staffing company. While the core focus is on flexible staffing placements, their specialty is consulting with companies to help them understand how to use flexible staffing solutions in their organizations to meet evolving business needs and to build loyal, productive and cost-efficient teams. Mom Corps re-define flexibility! Flexible staffing doesn’t just mean filling part-time positions, it can be defined and utilized in a number of ways throughout organizations.

With franchise offices located throughout the U.S., including Cincinnati, Mom Corps has partnered with the nation’s leading Fortune 500 Companies, small to mid-size businesses, academic institutions and non-profits. They also have access to more than 75,000 candidates nationwide that are looking to be placed in full-time flexible, part-time, project-based and seasonal positions. For more information, contact Shannon Keesee at skeesee@momcorps.com.

For more information, click here

Springboard Accepting Applications for March Classes

SpringBoard, the business education program for art and creative entrepreneurs, has opened the application
process for its March and April classes. More than a dozen entrepreneurs are accepted to each eight-week program. They meet together at Artworks in Over-the-Rhine for three hours of classes in marketing, finance, accounting and business plan help on Tuesday evenings. Cost is $250. Applications must be submitted online by February 15.

Because they are committed to small class sizes, ArtWorks will continue to have ongoing sessions throughout the year.

MobileX Cincy Explores New Frontiers

The Greater Cincinnati Venture Association, in conjunction with the NKU College of Informatics, is hosting MobileX Cincinnati. It is a one day conference for entrepreneurs, investors, developers, corporate and industry professionals, and mobile enthusiasts that identifies opportunities, explores solutions and provides technical education in mobile & related industries.

UpTech Provides $100,000 in Seed Capital Application Process Begins!

The application process has begun for the region's newest startup accelerator program called UpTech. UpTech will fund, educate, mentor and provide office space to 50 informatics companies over the next three to five years.

The program begins in late May or June, with a class of 10 companies from around the nation. The categories are health information technology, cloud computing virtualization, business analytics, digital media and cyber security with selection by a panel of executives from major corporations.

The founders of each company will receive a $100,000 investment and six months of free office space at One Riverfront Place in Newport, including access to students and faculty at Northern Kentucky University's College of Informatics, along with mentors from around the Tri-state area.
Bad Girl Ventures
Seeking Applications
from Women Entrepreneurs

Bad Girl Ventures (BGV) kicks off the application process for its fifth local class of women entrepreneurs, which begins March 24. Since its founding nearly two years ago, Over-the-Rhine-based BGV has educated more than 300 female entrepreneurs about the basics of starting a company. It has helped to fund 26 of those companies with more than $700,000 and has created 156 jobs in Ohio. BGV typically accepts 10 women-owned businesses into the nine-week program. The winner will be chosen by a group of funders at the end of the program and will receive a $25,000 loan.

Candace Klein, founder of BGV and SoMoLend, will be honored at the 2012 Master Entrepreneur Awards Celebration on March 1 at the Northern Kentucky University's METS Center for Corporate Learning.

For more information, click here

SoMoLend Opens
Office in Over-the-Rhine

SoMoLend introduces a new peer lending capability, leveraging the tools people use today - social networks, mobile phones and apps - to connect with their community and invest in each other.

This new social platform gives entrepreneurs the tools and financing they need to create jobs within their community. In turn, lenders get the opportunity to invest in things, ideas and people they care about most, all while earning higher-than-average returns on their portfolio investments. Much like online communities, lenders and borrowers are made up of friends, family, locals and entrepreneurs.

For more information, click here

eCenter Staff
Dr. Charles H. Matthews, Executive Director
Sherry Hetzer, Assistant Director
Lauren Hausman, Graduate Student

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