

# SIX REWARDED FOR RESEARCH

BY ERIC BUTTERMAN



ROY SCOTT

The Naveen Jindal School of Management makes research a major component of its portfolio — not just a peripheral goal. So it is no surprise five leading researchers on the faculty have been recognized by being named to endowed posts, and a sixth has earned a faculty fellowship and been recognized by The University of Texas System Board of Regents.

Two of these professors have been named as Ashbel Smith Professors, and three others have previously served as Ashbel Smith Professors. And all six find it vitally important that their enthusiasm for their subject matter extends to the classroom.

## MICHAEL REBELLO

From having his research cited in the *Journal of Economic Literature's* 25-year retrospective to serving as partner and adviser on hedge fund strategy and investment at Eiken Capital in Singapore, Dr. Michael Rebello has had an impressive career. Now he adds being appointed to the Susan C. and



Michael Rebello

H. Ronald Nash Distinguished Professorship to the mix.

The endowed professorship “gives me resources to pursue my research and to support doctoral students,” he says.

“Running the PhD program [in finance], I hope to gain more prominence for it.”

His main topics of research have been corporate governance and security design. Recently, he has studied corporate reputations and the role of financial analysts. “I’ve looked at analysts who worked for brokerages, and we showed the whole universe of sell-side analysts,” he says. “It actually altered the correlation between stocks — between stock returns — important from many perspectives because correlation is the key to understanding risk. Another finding was [about] analysts



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— H. RONALD (RON) NASH

hired by mutual fund companies and showing they are able to identify good investments for the companies and the managers of the companies actually pay attention to what analysts have to say.”

Rebello’s highest aspiration is for his students to become independent, especially in research — not as simple as it might seem. “They should be able to do everything on their own without relying on faculty,” he says. “We want them to be truly independent researchers. Ultimately what determines whether you’re considered a great PhD program is student achievement. What I’m trying to do is improve the culture of the program so students want to produce high-quality research — and a lot of it. They have to be self-motivated rather than pushed into it.”

JSOM alumnus H. Ronald (Ron) Nash, MS 1979, who with his wife, Susan, endowed Rebello’s new post, hopes that it will continue to keep researchers going. “We want to reward very bright and talented people in their career,” Nash says. “One of the key measures of the quality of a university is research dollars and how much they’re attracting. That’s key when heading into Tier One status. These professorships can allow [UT Dallas] to support research.”

Jindal School Dean Hasan Pirkul (center) with Susan C. and H. Ronald (Ron) Nash, longtime JSOM supporters whose gift created the distinguished professorship that carries their names.

## SURESH RADHAKRISHNAN

Dr. Suresh Radhakrishnan has been appointed to the Constantine Konstans Distinguished Professorship in Accounting and Corporate Governance.



Suresh Radhakrishnan

And, for him, the honor is quite personal. “I am very thankful to the school and Dean Hasan Pirkul, especially since I had known Connie Konstans for close to 15 years,” he says. Konstans, who died in 2013, was a longtime accounting professor who founded JSOM’s Institute for Excellence in Corporate Governance ([jindal.utdallas.edu/iecg](http://jindal.utdallas.edu/iecg)). “We used to call each other ‘brother,’” Radhakrishnan says. “Even at the last part of his career, I was a witness to how very focused he was on his mission for corporate governance.”

Radhakrishnan’s own research has hit many topics, but especially homed in on the evaluation of intangibles and the benefits and costs of intangibles. “We need to understand the global economy,” he says, “and where and how intangibles add value.”

His work on organization capital and charitable giving has been covered by major media, and he has presented at forums such as the Microsoft CEO Summit and the SAP Global Congress. And, as interim director of the Institute for Excellence in Corporate Governance, he says he aspires “to create a governance benchmarking exercise — on a very large scale. We used to have a research conference every year with knowledge experts from national and international universities to



Connie Konstans

discuss current happenings — I would like to restart that. I also want to bolster our current offerings — one is our annual conference, which has been a quality event.”

He says his goal as a teacher is to evoke passion and help students find a deeper in-

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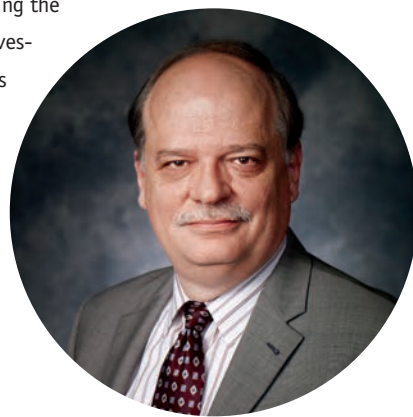
quisitive mind. “We’ve had many successful PhD students — I’m proud to say they are successful academics at top research universities,” he says. “It’s extremely gratifying in that I may have had a small role in influencing their thinking and research questions they choose.”

## WILLIAM CREADY

Coordinator of the Jindal School’s Accounting Area, Dr. William (Bill) Cready has been named to fill the Adolf Enthoven Distinguished Professorship. “I knew Adolf quite well, and it’s an honor to be affiliated with him in any way,” Cready says. Enthoven, who died in 2012, was the school’s senior-most accounting professor and founder of its Center for International Accounting Development ([jindal.utdallas.edu/oiland-gas/](http://jindal.utdallas.edu/oiland-gas/)) “He had such a worldwide reputation in his accounting skills, and it’s a real privilege....This gives people further goals to work for as they progress in academia and recognizes the best among academia. It says they have accomplished something in their research.”

In accounting, Cready’s research has been on financial reporting’s effect on decision making. It is “looking at things like whether large institutional investors trade differently than individual traders,” he says. “Is financial accounting leveling the playing field, letting small investors keep up or making things divergent? I want to get the idea of how financial reporting conveys to markets.”

Cready finds the Jindal School of Management “an overwhelming positive” for



William Cready



Adolf Enthoven

researchers. “Research is recognized as vital and a clear priority within the school,” he says. “That’s not often the case. Many colleges of business have different objectives and often conflicting signals are sent to faculty. We have a clarity of purpose here.”

Cready teaches a graduate course on intermediate accounting and a PhD seminar on financial accounting research. “We need to show students how challenging accounting is,” he says. “They

don’t have easy answers in the real world of the profession, and you need to come up with solutions.”

Cready continues to be inspired by Enthoven as his career takes on new challenges. “At his memorial service, I talked about speaking with him, and he was contemplating a talk about oil and gas that would be given in North Korea,” he says. “Not a common opportunity. He was that globally well-known, reputable and valued. He was quite a role model.”

## REBECCA FILES

For Dr. Rebecca Files, 2014 has turned into quite a year. It was enough to be named the first Sydney Smith Hicks Faculty Fellow, but then she learned this summer that she was a recipient of the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award.

The fellowship was endowed by Dr. Sydney Smith Hicks, a past chairman and more than 20-year member of the Jindal School Advisory Council, who set it up to help tenure-track assistant professors launch their careers more effectively.



Sydney Smith Hicks

The fellowship is more than an opportunity for her research, Files says, it is important encouragement. “I feel very honored and appreciate that [Dr. Hicks] is willing to acknowledge people at our school earlier in their career,” she says. “I see it as a signal

that I’m heading in the right direction. It’s one more example of the tremendous support I’ve felt from the school.”

Files’ research into corporate fraud and finding a better way to analyze financial statements began with analyzing more than a thousand statements over a 10-year period. A highlight was presenting some of her work at the annual UT Dallas fraud conference.

Her teaching philosophy is that accounting can be fun and that the connection with students doesn’t have to end. “I have the thought that if I don’t seem excited about the material I’m teaching then how can my students?” she says. “I want to show them accounting goes far beyond aspects like general ledgers. I also like my students to feel I’m invested with them. My husband and I make a point of every few months coming up with a place where we can meet after they move on. It can be a baseball game, going for ice cream, just that they know they can bounce ideas off of me and I’m there to help their career.”



Rebecca Files

This kind of dedication last year led to her earning the UT Dallas President’s Outstanding Teaching Award, a recognition that in turn led a UT Dallas nominating committee to put her name forward for the UT System-wide award. For it, Files committed to a lengthy application process. Approximately 150 pages and more than a dozen recommendations later, she had earned one of the most important awards a

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**JSOM RESEARCH VENTURES**

college educator could hope to attain.

"The experience of applying was a good one, partly because it made me think about how I can still do things better," she says. "I wrote about my teaching philosophy and mentoring—you can't help but evaluate it again when you're forced to think about it in such an in-depth way."

In addition to the monetary award of \$25,000, Files also joins a club she may be able to learn from for a lifetime. "I've already reached out to fellow winners at the school, and now I'll get to meet winners from all over the state at Austin for the ceremony," she says. "I'm grateful that the UT System dedicates so many resources to reward teachers."

**N**ewly appointed Ashbel Smith Professors in the Jindal School are Özalp Özer, an operations management professor, and Daniel Cohen, an accounting professor.

### ÖZALP ÖZER

Özer, who joined the JSOM faculty in 2009, recently also has been a visiting professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management. A pricing expert, he is the co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Pricing Management*. A recent study on consumer behavior relative to retail pricing that he coauthored with MIT colleague Karen Zheng, "Markdown

or Everyday Low Price? The Role of Behavioral Motives," was featured on the UT Dallas News Center and received several mentions in retailers' media. Özer, who serves as an editor on six professional journals, earned a doctorate in operations research from Columbia University. His recent research interest lies in



Özalp Özer

understanding and quantifying the role of non-money issues, such as trust and trustworthiness, in managing global supply chains.

### DANIEL COHEN

Cohen, who joined the faculty in 2010, teaches courses in financial accounting and financial statement analysis. His research focuses on financial reporting and disclosure, discretionary accounting choices, corporate governance and analyst earnings forecasts. In some projects, he investigates the determinants and consequences of financial reporting as well as the effects of regulation on corporate governance. His scholarly works are frequently cited and often downloaded; he ranks No. 318 in the Social Science Research Network's list of the Top 12,000 Business Authors. An associate editor for the *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, he also sits on the editorial board of *The Accounting Review*. Last academic year, he was invited to make presentations at Georgetown University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, INSEAD, Maastricht University, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and Tel Aviv University. 📖



Daniel Cohen

### WHO WAS ASHBEL SMITH?

**A** physician and one-time surgeon general in the army of the Texas Republic, Ashbel Smith also served multiple terms in the Texas Legislature and helped foster better relations between the state and Europe. He was the first president of the Board of Regents and is remembered as the father of The University of Texas.



Ashbel Smith

## NEW FACULTY ADDED IN ALL ACADEMIC AREAS

by Donna Steph Rian

Twenty faculty members at the level of senior lecturer or above are joining the Naveen Jindal School of Management this academic year. Nineteen of the newcomers are profiled here. Find the profile of Dr. Britt Berrett on page 3. | A total of 248 educators, including adjunct and visiting professors, now work in the school.



### GIL SADKA

Gil Sadka joins the Naveen Jindal School of Management as an associate professor of accounting. He comes from Columbia University, where he also served as an associate professor of accounting.

"UTD, in my opinion, is the fastest-growing business school," Sadka says. "Moreover the accounting department is top-notch. In addition, both Texas and Dallas are growing rapidly. It is nice to join such a growing business environment, where I can be a part of helping capitalize on such growth and assist the business community by producing a well-educated workforce."

Sadka's research interests lie in equity valuation and examining the role of earnings and earnings predictability in generating stock-price volatility and the implications for asset prices. His studies also explore issues related to "aggregate earnings and aggregate stock-price movement, as well as the implications of accounting practice on contracting and other actions taken by firm managers and

their competitors."

Sadka earned an MBA and a PhD from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and a bachelor's degree from Tel Aviv University. He served as assistant to the chairman of the Israel Accounting Standards Board from July 2000 to July 2001, and in the Israeli Defense Forces from 1994 to 1997.

"Being a researcher means that you must constantly learn new theories and new methodologies," Sadka says. "I hope to continue my research in capital markets and continue to broaden my academic interests. I also hope to learn from my colleagues and pass on this new knowledge to our students."



### TOYAH MILLER

An associate professor of strategy and entrepreneurship in the Organizations, Strategy and International Management Area, Toyah Miller has a passion for bringing business skills to the social arena. She recently returned from Ghana, where she worked with a microfinance orga-

nization to construct a social impact analysis plan for its loan programs to women entrepreneurs.

"I enjoy boundary-spanning experiences that cut across corporate, non-profit and academic areas that allow me to work on ideas that have social impact," she says. "Micro-enterprise, entrepreneurship, social enterprise, and youth and young-adult workforce development as tools for poverty alleviation are passionate interests of mine personally and professionally."

"My interest in innovative and social entrepreneurship, and especially their use for social purposes," Miller says, "stemmed from growing up with a mother who would volunteer in retirement homes after work because she saw a need....After organizing career-development programming at children's homes and mentoring social business, I decided to go back to school to research...social entrepreneurship, defined as creative use of resources to generate both social and economic value."

Miller, who earned a PhD from Texas A&M University and a BBA from Baylor University, is teaching graduate