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Virginia Tech’s nationally ranked Pamplin College of Business offers undergraduate and graduate programs in accounting and information systems, business information technology, economics, finance, hospitality and tourism management, management, and marketing. The college emphasizes the development of ethical values and leadership, technology, and international business skills. Its centers focus on business leadership, business diversity, e-commerce, forest industries, organizational performance, and services innovation. The college is committed to serving business and society through the expertise of its faculty, alumni, and students. It is named in honor of Robert B. Pamplin (BAD ’33), the former CEO of Georgia-Pacific, and his son, businessman and philanthropist Robert B. Pamplin Jr. (BAD ’64).

You can support the Pamplin College of Business through your estate, through your retirement accounts, or with a gift that produces lifetime income for you. To learn more, please contact Mark Begly, director of development, at (540) 231-5662, mbegly@vt.edu.

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NOTABLE

LOOK WHO’S TALKING

Wachovia Distinguished Speakers
Markel Corporation’s senior vice president and chief financial officer Richard R. Whitt (ACCT ’87) discussed the insurance industry and his career. Richmond-based Markel markets and underwrites specialty insurance products and programs to various niche markets. Brian Slingerland (FIN ’00) discussed success in investment banking in his talk, “Be a Catalyst.” Slingerland is a partner and co-founder, together with legendary investment banker Frank Quattrone and others, in the investment banking business of Qatalyst Group, a technology-focused merchant banking boutique launched in San Francisco in March 2008.

BB&T Distinguished Speaker
Forbes newsletter editor and book author Vahan Janjigian (MBA ’82, Ph.D./FIN ’85) discussed some of Warren Buffett’s stock picking mistakes and how he came to write his book, Even Buffett Isn’t Perfect: What You Can — and Can’t — Learn from the World’s Greatest Investor. Janjigian is chief investment strategist at Forbes, vice president and executive director of the Forbes Investors Advisory Institute, and editor of the Forbes Growth Investor and Special Situation Survey investment newsletters. (The fall 2008 Pamplin magazine included a profile on Janjigian and a review of his book by SunTrust Professor of Finance John Pinkerton.)

COLLEGE REACCREDITED

The college has been reaccredited by AACSB-International, following an extensive program evaluation and site visit by a review team. The five-member team, led by Richard Cosier, chair of AACSB’s board of directors and dean of Purdue University’s business school, visited Pamplin last fall to interview the college’s administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

In its report, the team commended the college on several activities, including the “assurance of learning” initiative, the study-abroad program in Switzerland, and the diversity center and minor as “exceptionally effective practices that demonstrate leadership and high-quality continuous improvement in management education.” These are “best practices,” the team noted, that may be of interest to other management educators.

The team’s suggestions for improvement (unrelated to AACSB accreditation standards) included giving greater attention to recruiting and retaining productive faculty, seeking innovative ways to deliver courses, increasing revenue from non-degree and degree executive education programs, and expanding international programs and opportunities for students and faculty.

AACSB-International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, is the primary accrediting agency for business schools worldwide.