From the Dean's Desk

Greetings! The new year brings with it new hopes and new accomplishments. I am glad to report that our Winter 2021 student enrollments have grown to 872 (853 in Winter 2020). Our business analytics minor has become the largest undergraduate minor on campus, and we have seen a whopping 100% growth in our MAcc program. We are excited that the inaugural class of our Masters of Science in Accounting (MSAcc) will start autumn 2021.

Building community connections continues to be the heartbeat of everything we do. We have launched a new advisory board for the Center for Leadership and Social Responsibility with Adam Small (MBA alum 2010; G.M., Schnitzer Steel) as chair with senior executives from organizations such as North Star Energy, Russell Family Foundation, MultiCare, USA Truck, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and United Way. In line with my vision for the school, I continue to grow our other advisory boards with additions such as Jim Milgard Jr. (Continental Floral Greens); Quincy Henry (Campfire Coffee); Marcus Trufant (Trufant Family Foundation); former NFL player for the Seattle Seahawks); and Senator T’wina Nobles (Tacoma Urban League).

Real life business knowledge was brought to our students by talks from Jim Murphy (COO & EVP, Costco), Kurt Carlson (CEO, Propel Insurance), and events such as the Contemporary Accounting Forum (140 participants including Davita, BDO, TrueBlue, and Deloitte), winter career fair with over 100 students and 20 companies, and the CSR Case Competition which attracted 20 student teams from 11 countries. To help create an inclusive culture in the school, I have appointed our very first Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion (DEI) Officer, and a DEI Advisory Council. They are developing and implementing an exciting series of DEI focused activities and initiatives.

In this newsletter you will read about key take-aways from a “Future of Work” conference co-sponsored by us, a new accounting mentorship program, lessons in leadership from Kurt Carlson, and how our students are helping local businesses recover from COVID through our SAB program. Going forward in each newsletter we will be spotlighting our distinguished alumni. Our inaugural spotlight is on Eric Emans (Undergraduate alum 1999; CFO, Lighthouse).

I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and please feel free to connect with me at altafm@uw.edu.

Onward and forward! Go Huskies!

Altaf Merchant
Gary A. and James E. Milgard Endowed Dean
Professor of Marketing

Milgard School News

Leadership Lessons with Kurt Carlson,
President & CEO of Propel Insurance

In autumn quarter, the Milgard CLSR launched an interview series called Leadership Lessons. Part one
The series featured Kurt Carlson, CEO of Propel Insurance and recipient of the 2019 Business Leader of the Year award. Through his interview, Carlson gives us a glimpse into the principles and practices that guide his leadership as CEO.

The Future of Work After COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an almost overnight shift for millions of people around the globe to switch from mainly physical presence at an office or school to 100% online, and also exposed significant weaknesses and gaps in global supply chains in healthcare, retail, transportation, manufacturing, education, and more, resulting in organizational leaders and policymakers. Two Milgard faculty members have partnered with industry experts and leading organizations as part of a Discovery Summit on the "future of work”

MAcc Mentorship Program

Milgard MAcc Mentorship Program provides an opportunity for our students to gain knowledge and insight from accounting professionals. Our mentors provide a valuable connection to the business world and enhance our student’s future careers by sharing their wisdom and experience. Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on students’ personal, academic, and professional lives.

This year our 19 mentors and 33 mentees attend the
autumn kick-off meeting and have been meeting in small groups. Through these relationships our students have had the opportunity to work with representatives from industry, government, as well as the Big 4, regional, and local accounting firms. The variety of mentor experience provides for rich mentorship relationships. We are fortunate to have such dedicated mentors who are willing to share their time and talents in support of our students.

New Alumni Engagement Office

Looking ahead, Milgard alumni should stay tuned for other ways to connect back to their Alma Mater. Newly appointed Alumni Engagement Manager and Annual Giving Officer, Ellen Hermansen (Milgard MBA ‘20), now serves as a new point of contact for Milgard alumni wanting to get involved and give back. Hermansen, along with the newly developed Milgard Alumni Engagement Office, is helping to organize two upcoming Alumni Panels, an Executive Speaker Series, and networking sessions to engage the ever-growing Milgard alumni family.

A heartfelt thank you to all Milgard Alumni who came together during these extraordinary times to raise funds in the first-ever Milgard Annual Giving Campaign. Gifts made to the Business Excellence Fund through this successful campaign will continue to bolster innovative programming and services that directly support Milgard students, such as Emergency Student Aid, The Milgard Success Center, and Students Assisting Business. As promised during the campaign, Dean Altaf Merchant generously pledged to match up to $5,000 in gifts made by Milgard alumni!
Are you a Milgard alum who is interested in getting involved?

CONTACT ELLEN

Alumni & Student Spotlight

**Eric Emans ('99 Accounting)**

Eric is a 1999 UW Tacoma Business Administration graduate from the Milgard School of Business. After graduating, Eric began his career in the Assurance Services group at Deloitte and Touche, and earned his CPA. Since leaving Deloitte, Eric has held multiple roles in finance and has served in the role of Chief Financial Officer since 2011, including his current role as CFO at Lighthouse and previous positions as CFO and Treasurer at A Place for Mom, and Blucora, where he previously served as Chief Accounting Officer.

READ ERIC’S STORY

**Students Assisting Business**

When COVID 19 descended upon the Pacific Northwest, the health of the people was of tremendous concern to all. Then the heavy toll on the economy took place. Businesses were shuttered or closed permanently. Many Milgard School of Business students found that internships evaporated. The Milgard School stepped up with a program to help both students and local businesses.

LEARN WHAT WE DID
Congratulations to Heritage Distilling

Hearty congratulations to Milgard Executive Council member Justin Stiefel on Heritage Distillery being ranked #2 craft distillery in Washington state!

Upcoming Events

• **CLSR Invitational Case Competition** - Feb. 26, 2021
  The Center for Leadership & Social Responsibility at the Milgard School of Business presents the 10th annual undergraduate Invitational Case Competition on Social Responsibility. Teams from select universities will be invited to register a team of four students to participate along with their peers from universities world-wide. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this event will take place virtually in 2021. Twenty teams will submit their cases electronically on Feb. 20, after which a team of judges will review and score the presentations. On Feb. 25, the judges meet with each team for a Q&A to complete their review. Four teams will progress to the finals, which will be livestreamed on Friday, Feb. 26. For a detailed schedule, see the [MICCSR website](#).

• **Inspired Speaker Series** - Mar. 2, 2021
  Sponsored by the Milgard Women’s Initiative of the Center for Leadership and Social Responsibility.

• **Milgard Alumni Panel: Highlighting the Milgard Center for Business Analytics** - Mar. 3, 2021
  If I knew then what I know now about Data Analytics... Hear from four MS in Business Analytics alumni about their experience in the MSBA program, as well as their professional journey in the field of data analytics after leaving the Milgard School.

• **Undergraduate Business School Information Session** – Mar. 3, 2021
Alumni Speaker Series: Jessica Barry (Marketing ’16) – Mar. 11, 2021

Jessica is currently a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Bain focusing on luxury, waterfront properties. She received the International Sterling Award in 2019 and was recognized and elevated to the International Diamond Society for 2020. She will talk about her career and how her Milgard education helped her.