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From the Editors

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New England Journal of Entrepreneurship

From the Editors:

In only a few days from this writing, Associate Editor Joshua Shuart and Editor Herbert Sherman will be conducting a seminar on entrepreneurial education at the Institute of Behavioral and Applied Management's 15th Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada (October 4-6, 2007). This is the second stage of NEJE's collaborative arrangement with IBAM; that members of the editorial staff (and eventually authors, reviewers, and readers) become active members of IBAM and participate in "professional association of college and university professors and students who are studying the field of management, and practitioners in business, not-for-profit organizations, and government who have a strong interest in the issues and concerns related to management." IBAM has graciously welcomed us into their organization by establishing a separate division for entrepreneurial studies. It is our hope that our readers will become active members by submitting papers, symposia, panel discussions, cases, experiential exercises as well as volunteer to participate in the management of the division. You can read more about IBAM by going to <http://www.ibam.com/about.asp> and peruse its website.

We are sad to report that our Associate Editor for Entrepreneurial Education, Pamela Stepanovich-Hopkins, has resigned from her post so that she may become Director of the First-Year Experience at Southern Connecticut State College. Stepping into her shoes will be Sean M. Hackett of Drexel University. Sean has already launched a new project, and we are pleased to announce that we are soliciting manuscripts for a special issue of the *Journal* on entrepreneurial education. Accordingly, we seek contributions relating to entrepreneurship education that fall within one or more of the following four tracks: *Visionary Articles*, *Theory Articles*, *Critical Issues Articles*, and *Nuts and Bolts Articles*. Please contact either Sean M. Hackett (sean.m.hackett@drexel.edu), Associate Editor of Entrepreneurial Education, or Miles Davis (mdavi3@su.edu), Associate Editor for Minorities and Women for further details. Submission deadline is April 30, 2008.

This Spring 2008 issue of the NEJE will mark my fifth issue as editor and it seems like just yesterday that Lorry handed over the reins and said "have at it." I, as always, am greatly indebted to the reviewers, authors, and the production staff at Miccinello Associates who make my job easy and a pleasure. I am quite proud of this issue of the *Journal* since we present a very balanced issue, which includes an interview with a practitioner, several empirical pieces, a controversial invited article, an article on entrepreneurial education, and a book review.

Our first article is an invited piece by Deborah V. Brazeal, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Mark T. Schenkel, Belmont University; and Jay A. Azriel, York College of Pennsylvania entitled "Awakening the Entrepreneurial Spirit: Exploring the Relationship Between Organizational Factors and Perceptions of Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy and Desirability in a Corporate Setting." This exploratory study seeks to take a first step toward extending previous theory and research on corporate entrepreneurship (CE) by focusing explicitly on the role of organizational antecedents as they relate to CE potential to engage in entrepreneurial activities, particularly in cases where a track record for such activity does not historically exist. They directly examine how and if management support, autonomy, time availability, organizational boundaries, rewards and interest in workplace innovation significantly impact two critical psychological states of the potential CE: (1) entrepreneurial self-efficacy and (2) the desirability of engaging in entrepreneurial activities.

In the next article entitled "The Impact of Screening Criteria on Entrepreneurship Research," Gregory B. Murphy, University of Southern Indiana, and Robert C. Hill, Texas State University, examine how entrepreneurship researchers use various types of screening criteria to select samples for their studies. Selecting these criteria is, in effect, choosing a definition or model of entrepreneurship, which leads to immense consequences for generalizability of research and theory development in the field. The study is intended to help entrepreneurship researchers better understand these consequences and, thereby, improve their understanding of entrepreneurial phenomenon. Four of the most commonly used screening criteria are included in this study: firm age, firm size, firm growth, and innovation. Based on a sample of 368 manufacturing firms, the results indicated that few firms fit all or even most of the considered screening criteria and independent-dependent variable relationships vary considerably by screening criteria selection.

While Brazeal et al. studied intrapreneurship, GiSeung Kim of Cheongju University examined the research underlying business startups in the paper “Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment: The State-of-the-Art and Directions for Future Research.” Kim surveyed the recent literature on entrepreneurship and self-employment and catalogues the main contributions of this body of research and by making distinctions between issues (i.e., personality, family circumstances, human capital, ethnic origin and immigration, liquidity, years of education, labor market experience, financial capital, and income) on which there is now widespread agreement and those for which no consensus has yet emerged. This latter set of issues provides fertile ground for further research.

The next two pieces deal with entrepreneurial education. Joseph R. Bell, University of Arkansas, in the article “Utilization of Problem-Based Learning in an Entrepreneurship Business Planning Course” examines Problem-Based Learning (“PBL”) in an undergraduate entrepreneurship business planning course with the objective of creating a framework for future assessment in evaluating PBL in the business planning course. Throughout the course, ill-structured problems arise that require independent thinking and ongoing problem-solving with students taking responsibility for their own learning. The course incorporates the latest classroom technology and the article describes how that technology is utilized to deliver self-directed learning. The PBL methodology is then evaluated in light of anonymous student survey results.

Following the above case study, the book *Entrepreneurship Education*, edited by Patricia G. Greene and Mark P. Rice. Cheltenham (UK: Edgar Elgar Publishing Limited, 2007) is reviewed by Marguerite R. Faulk, American InterContinental University, Atlanta. The book is a comprehensive collection of outstanding articles on entrepreneurship education written over the past 15 years and readers already actively engaged in teaching entrepreneurship will recognize many familiar names throughout this collection. In their conclusion, editors Greene and Rice raise four primary issues as future areas of research. One issue for future discussion is the question of exactly who should be teaching entrepreneurial education. The editors suggest the need for a marriage between pure academics and entrepreneurial practitioners.

Last but not least, my colleague from Long Island University, Brooklyn, Philip Wolitzer, CPA, has some sage advice in “Some Entrepreneurship Pitfalls” on the use of CPAs by small business owners and entrepreneurs. His advice may seem simple but many small business owners forgo the use of a CPA for the sake of cost savings; this unfortunately may lead to much greater problems down the road as they deal with the IRS and other government reporting regulations and requirements.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you (your comments and suggestions for future issues) as well as your submissions and contributions to the journal.

Herbert Sherman
Editor

Joshua Shuart
Associate Editor and Web Master

Lorry Weinstein
Editor Emeritus