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## Research at Babson - 08/2005

Babson Faculty Research Fund

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## **BoR Summer 2005 newsletter**

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### **BoR/FRF Merger News**

This fall, faculty will elect members to the new faculty funding entity formed by the merger of the BoR and FRF. While the new committee writes Bylaws and sets policies, the BoR will continue its usual fall schedule. If you have questions regarding a current BoR or FRF award, requests for research-related expenses (up to \$2500), and the merger process, contact Susan Chern, x5339 or [chern@babson.edu](mailto:chern@babson.edu).

### **BoR News**

#### **Fall 2005 Course Releases**

*The following faculty members were awarded fall 2005 course releases to pursue Board sponsored research activities.*

Steven Gordon, IT Management.

The Role of Information Technology in Managing the Innovation Process

The management of innovation is widely acknowledged to be difficult and complex. We know that it requires the support of top management, committed champions, the appropriate setting of expectations, and the ability to deal with uncertainties. We also know that various organizational structures, processes and systems have been deployed to try to improve management of innovation -- including stage gate systems, innovation hubs, and internal venture capital funds. However, we know much less about how a firm's information technology (IT) capabilities can help or hinder the innovation process. The foci of this study are how IT can help manage the innovation process and, as a result, what generic IT capabilities a firm must have to succeed in being innovative.

Elaine Landry, Management.

Negotiating Work-Life Balance Arrangements

Squeezed between employment and family demands, the working-age population of North America views work-life balance as an essential way to manage time constraints and retain career satisfaction. A majority of work-life arrangements, such as flexible hours and work-at-home projects, are informal in nature and are reached by negotiations among peers and between supervisors and subordinates. This research makes use of a literature review and field interviews with working professionals to explore the specific ways in which informal work-life agreements enhance or limit negotiating relationships in the workplace.

Toni Lester, Accounting and Law.

Recent Developments In Gay Rights Law – The Case of Ireland

Lester will engage in research and writing about how Ireland is implementing recent European Community legal directives in the area of gay rights law. This will take place at the Dublin Institute of Technology, from which she has received an invitation to be a visiting scholar in the Fall of 2005.

Keith Rollag, Management.

Newcomer: Understanding Why We Think and Act the Way We Do in New Groups and Social Situations

I am writing two chapters of a book on the newcomer experience. The book will incorporate ideas from sociology, biology, psychology, anthropology, and organizational behavior to help people understand why it's so awkward to enter new social situations. It will also describe the basic dramas and routines associated with being a newcomer, and show people how to get better at introductions, remembering names, developing relationships, asking questions, and making sense of new situations. The goal of the book is to demystify the newcomer experience, reassure the reader that their newcomer anxieties are normal, and give them some practical advice on how to make their future newcomer situations less stressful and more rewarding.

### Fall Faculty Research “Chat” Schedule

Noon - 1:15 PM, Needham Room, Olin Hall

**Wednesday, September 14, 2005**

**Lisa Colletta** Art & Humanities The Technicolor Landscape

**Toni Lester** Accounting & Law Will The New Supreme Court Grant Gays the Right To Marry?

**Thursday, October 6, 2005**

**Katherine Hevert** Finance

**Denise Troxell** Mathematics and Science

### Babson Welcomes New Faculty

The Babson community extends a warm welcome to the new faculty members who are joining us this fall.

Shahid L. Ansari	Professor of Accounting
Candida Brush	Professor of Entrepreneurship
Geoffrey Carliner	Visiting Asst. Prof. of Economics
Stephen Deets	Assistant Professor of Politics (H&S)
Michael Fein	Visiting Assistant Prof. of History
Ruth Gilleran	Visiting Lecturer in TOIM
Gang Hu	Assistant Professor of Finance
Yoo-Taek Lee	Assistant Professor of Operations, TOIM
Cristi Lindblom	Visiting Assistant Prof. of Accounting.
Mary O'Donoghue	Assistant Professor of English (A&H)
Stephen A. Shapiro	Visiting Lecturer in Marketing
Ronald Waite	Visiting Lecturer in Arts & Humanities
Simon E. Weffer-Elizondo	Visiting Assistant Prof of Sociology (H&S)

## Faculty News

How did you spend your summer -- writing a book, editing an article, speaking at a conference, teaching abroad, gathering data? We would like to share this information with the Babson community in the forthcoming newsletter.

Please forward the details about recent research activities to the Board of Research office, Babson 204, or to [chern@babson.edu](mailto:chern@babson.edu). Thank you for your help.

## Free Statistical Consulting Available to Faculty and Staff

The Mathematics and Science Division's Center for Statistical Consulting (CSC) offers free help with statistics. If you are:

- Analyzing the results of a survey or a research study
- Designing a survey or a research study
- Writing a research grant with a methods section
- Reviewing a manuscript with some statistics you need to verify
- Deciphering statistical comments from a referee

or you are:

- Summarizing some data for a presentation
- Analyzing some administrative data,

then, the CSC is the place to go for help. All queries, from the simplest to the most challenging, are welcomed. All projects, from a simple regression analysis of a small amount of data to a complex, multivariable analysis of large volumes of data, are appropriate. So don't let those numbers bother you any longer. Call John McKenzie at X4479 or send him an e-mail, [mckenzie@babson.edu](mailto:mckenzie@babson.edu), today.

## External Funding

Update from the Corporate, Foundation, and  
Government Relations Office (CFGR)  
*Wendy Silverman, Director, CFGR*

### Services

The Office of Corporate, Foundation and Government Relations (CFGR) within Development and Alumni Relations at Babson College provides guidance and assistance to faculty and staff seeking funding from corporations, foundations, and government agencies to support their research and curricular development initiatives. Among the services provided are pre-award activities such as identifying and researching possible funding sources, assisting with cultivation of funding prospects and with proposal development and writing, particularly in the final draft stage, and ultimately with the submission of proposals. Post-award assistance is provided by both the CFGR and the Business Office. Among the post-award activities for which faculty and staff can obtain help are grant negotiation, budget clarification, financial and narrative reports, requests for extensions, and grant close-outs.

Of course, not all of our proposals are funded. However, if you never apply, you never get funded. If you would like to explore the possibility of external funding or examine your research agenda please contact me at x5993 or [silverman@babson.edu](mailto:silverman@babson.edu).