



Happy New Year!

2003 was an eventful year for the Robert H. Smith School of Business, featuring the launch of a global Executive MBA program, visits by Michael Dell of Dell Inc. and Smith alumna Carly Fiorina, MBA '80, of HP, and increased recognition for the excellence of our faculty and programs. Smith's 2003 rankings included #7 research worldwide and #7 U.S. public business school (*The Financial Times*), and #11 part-time MBA and #17 undergraduate program (*U.S. News & World Report*).

In 2004, *Smith Newslink* will continue to bring you the latest news about programs, people, and events at the Smith School.

Winter Commencement

Nearly 400 students were awarded degrees from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the winter commencement, held Sunday, December 21, 2003, at the Comcast Center. Smith School alumnus **Paul J. Norris MBA '71**, chairman and CEO of W.R. Grace & Co., delivered the keynote address.

Can you say, "Terps Rule!"?

Dean Howard Frank, Director of Alumni Affairs Francena Phillips Jackson, and many, many Smith School alumni were among the thousands cheering the Terps to victory at the 2004 Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. In a December 31 Webcast from the event, Dean Frank talked about the similarities between building a winning football team and a leading business school on **FridgeTV.com**, a new Internet television channel developed by Smith School alumnus, Jess Atkinson '85.



"Master of Innovation" to Address Executives at Smith

Smith alumni are invited to learn how to grow their organizations from one of the world's most renowned thinkers on innovation, **Clayton Christensen**, in a daylong seminar, "Leading Through Innovation," **Friday, January 23** at the Smith School of Business. Christensen, author of the best-selling book "The Innovator's Dilemma," has been dubbed the "Master of Innovation" by *Newsweek* magazine. Seminar attendees will also gain valuable insight from BearingPoint CEO, Rand Blazer, and Nextel VP for Human Resources, Jim Caprara.

A registration fee of \$295 includes all workshops and sessions, a copy of Christensen's latest book, "The Innovator's Solution," breakfast, lunch, a cocktail reception, and the opportunity to network with Washington, D.C.-area business leaders and Smith alumni. For more information and to register, visit ee.rhsmith.umd.edu/hcit or call 301.405.9564.

You're Invited!

Overcome winter's chill in the warmth of a Smith School Alumni Chapter networking event, **Tuesday, February 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Tyson's Corner Marriott**. In addition to tasty hors d'oeuvres and the opportunity to network with area Smith alumni, you'll learn about the remarkable growth of Nextel Communications from featured speaker **Bob Johnson '80**, senior VP for national field operations at Nextel. For more information and to register, visit www.rhsmith.umd.edu/alumni or call 301.405.9460.

Advance Your Career in 2004

Was taking the first step to move ahead in your career on your list of New Year's resolutions? Here's one way to begin: with an MBA from Smith. Check out Smith's



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executive MBA (EMBA) and part-time (evening and weekend) MBA programs at the following information sessions in early 2004.

EMBA Information Sessions

- Wednesday, January 21, 2004, 5:30 p.m., Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C.
- Saturday, January 24, 2004, 10:30 a.m., Robert H. Smith School of Business, College Park
- Thursday, January 29, 2004, 5:30 p.m., Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C.
- Saturday, February 7, 2004, 10:30 a.m., Robert H. Smith School of Business, College Park
- Monday, February 9, 2004, 5:30 p.m., Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C.
- Wednesday, February 18, 2004, 5:30 p.m., Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C.
- Saturday, February 21, 2004, 10:30 a.m., Robert H. Smith School of Business, College Park
- Monday, February 23, 2004, 5:30 p.m., Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C.

Sessions fill up fast. RSVP by e-mailing emba@rhsmith.umd.edu or calling the Executive Education Office at 301.405.9559.

Part-time MBA Information Sessions

- Tuesday, January 20, 2004, 7 p.m., University System of Maryland Center, Shady Grove
- Thursday, February 12, 2004, 7 p.m., Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C.



- Tuesday, February 17, 2004, 7 p.m., University of Maryland School of Nursing, Baltimore
- Thursday, February 26, 2004, 7 p.m., University System of Maryland Center, Shady Grove

Sign up today at <http://www.rhsmith.umd.edu/partmba/> or contact the Master's Programs Office at mba_info@rhsmith.umd.edu or 301.405.2559.

Smith Experts Pen Monthly Column in *Washington Business Journal*

If you're a regular reader of the *Washington Business Journal*, you may have seen some familiar names and faces appearing in one of the newspaper's departments. Beginning last October, Smith School experts have contributed a monthly column with advice for entrepreneurs and early-stage companies. In the coming month, look for a column by Paul Tesluk, assistant professor of management and organization, on how to build effective virtual teams.

Contemplating A Career Move in the Near Future?

Through a special arrangement with Next Step Partners, the Smith School is pleased to offer a new career management service to Smith School alumni: Career Action GroupSM. Jumpstart your career with this career transition program taken by hundreds of experienced business professionals and alumni from the country's top schools. Whether you are currently employed and contemplating making a move, or are in between jobs, a Career Action Group can help make your transition a more productive and rewarding experience. Led by professional coaches, Career Action Groups offer valuable content



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and support to help create focus and momentum around your goals while providing broader resources, ideas, and perspectives.

Questions or comments about *Smith Newslink*? E-mail us at alumni@rhsmith.umd.edu.