Candid Answers from CEOs

What sets your firm apart from your competitors? What is your advice to an aspiring CEO? When students asked a group of corporate leaders questions like those, they received helpful answers at a well-attended session, “Inside the Mind of the CEO.”

Presented by Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity (AKP), Rho Psi Chapter, the event took place on April 7 in Maryland Hall. It was co-sponsored by the Whiting School of Engineering’s Development Office and the W.P. Carey Program in Entrepreneurship & Management.

“The speakers were candid and were willing to speak to students individually after the event. All in all, it was a great networking event, connecting students with real-life CEOs,” said Ashlyn Schniederjans, a senior Economics major who is president of AKP.

At the “Inside the Mind of the CEO” event are (from left) Ashlyn Schniederjans, a senior who is president of Alpha Kappa Psi, and the speakers: John H. Beakes ’77 M.A., chairman, Next Century Corporation; Michael G. Stolarik ’73, president and COO, Analex Corporation; Prakash C. Bhatt, president of VF Factory Outlet (and father of Reena A. Phatt ’00); and Ronald L. Gue ’60, ’64 PhD, chairman, Phoenix Health Systems.

New Institute for Computational Medicine

The wealth of data now available to biomedical researchers is increasing rapidly, due in large part to the development of new technologies for high-throughput data acquisition. These technologies now make it possible to determine gene sequences; measure the complement of genes and proteins expressed in cells and/or tissues; map protein-protein interactions under a wide range of experimental and disease conditions; and obtain functional imagery at the cell, tissue, and organ levels.

The challenge of the coming decade will be how best to use these multi-scale data to gain a quantitative understanding of the “systems” biology of human disease and to enable the identification of biological markers correlating with different disease states and inter-individual differences in risk.

The new Institute for Computational Medicine (ICM) established at Johns Hopkins will address this challenge. Its mission is to develop quantitative approaches for understanding the mechanisms, diagnosis, and treatment of disease through applications of mathematics, engineering, and computer science. The ICM will bring together researchers in such areas as:

• modeling of biological systems and disease mechanisms;
• characterization of changes in anatomic shape and function in health versus disease; and
• discovery of accurate, sensitive and specific disease biomarkers.

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The ICM will be located in the Computational Sciences and Engineering Building, scheduled to open in spring 2007 (see page 12). Its faculty, including new researchers who will be hired within the Whiting School of Engineering, will conduct research in each of these three areas. ICM’s director, Raimond L. Winslow, is also director of the Center for Cardiovascular Bioinformatics and Modeling as well as associate director of the Whitaker Biomedical Engineering Institute and professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Visit the Institute for Computational Medicine at www.icm.jhu.edu.

M.S. in Bioinformatics

Bioinformatics, which lies at the juncture of computer science and molecular biology, will play an increasingly important role in identifying, characterizing, and selecting potential biological targets to develop and produce.

To help meet that demand, the Whiting School’s Engineering and Applied Science Programs for Professionals (EPP) and the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences’ Advanced Academic Programs together are offering an M.S. degree program in bioinformatics. This is the first joint master’s degree program between the two schools.

For more information, visit ptesrv.apl.jhu.edu.

APL’s Legendary “Kossy”:
Alexander Kossiakoff ’38 PhD

During his almost 60 years with the Johns Hopkins’ Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), Alexander Kossiakoff ’38 PhD, fondly known as “Kossy,” set an astounding pace. He was a pioneer of solid propellant rocket technology, a builder of satellites and radar systems, an academic innovator, a mentor, and APL director for 11 years.

Up until a few weeks before his death of congestive heart failure on August 6, the 91-year-old was still coming to work daily as APL’s chief scientist, a post he had held for the past 25 years. Kossiakoff also had still served as program chair for technical management and systems engineering in the Whiting School of Engineering’s Engineering and Applied Science Programs for Professionals (EPP). He also guided these part-time programs through their rapid growth.

After joining APL as a young missile scientist in 1946, Kossiakoff contributed “enormously to national security by developing—from drawing board to deployment—the first fleet-wide naval guided missile systems,” noted Hopkins President William R. Brody. Two years later, Kossiakoff became APL’s assistant director, and then its director (1969-80).

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Kossiakoff earned his undergraduate degree at CalTech and his doctorate at Hopkins, both in chemistry. He was “universally known as a man of great intelligence, skill, vision, and humanity,” noted Brody, who presented him with the Johns Hopkins President’s Medal in 2004. His numerous other honors included the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, its highest honor for an individual from outside the government. APL named its Kossiakoff Conference and Education Center in his honor in 1983.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Arabelle; a daughter, a son, and five granddaughters.

APL plans to hold a memorial service this fall.

The family has requested that memorial donations be directed to the Whiting School’s Systems Engineering Programs, 144 New Engineering Building, 3400 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218.

Prolific Researcher, Gifted Professor: Charles S. ReVelle

The field of location analysis—using mathematical modeling to determine the optimal and most environmentally-friendly sites for sewage-treatment plants, warehouses, fire stations, reservoirs, and other facilities—is said to owe its origins to Charles S. “Chuck” ReVelle. A professor in the Whiting School of Engineering’s Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering (DoGEE), ReVelle died of lymphoma on August 10 at the age of 67.

ReVelle (above) published widely, had a broad interest in environmental subjects, and was known for his contributions to reservoir design. His many interests included reservoir operation, designing nature reserves, and nuclear disarmament. He and his wife, Penelope, published five environmental science textbooks in the 1990s.

A chemical engineer who had evolved into an applied mathematician, ReVelle joined the Engineering faculty in 1971 and was promoted to professor in 1975. He founded DoGEE’s program in Systems Analysis and Economics for Public Decision Making.

“Chuck was absolutely devoted to the research and careers of his students, dozens of whom now hold faculty positions around the world,” observed Nicholas P. Jones, dean of the Whiting School.

In addition to his wife, survivors include two daughters and a granddaughter.

Hopkins held a memorial service for ReVelle on September 11.

The family has requested that memorial donations be directed to the Charles S. ReVelle Scholarship Fund, 144 New Engineering Building, 3003 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218.