

## Center Stage: The Newsletter of the Center for Organizational Dynamics

Volume 1, Number 3 May/June 2006

Becky Collins, Editor

### A Note from the Editor

*This issue of "Center Stage" is dedicated to  
The Organizational Dynamics  
Class of 2006*

and

*Marie Zecca,  
former Associate Director of the Center for  
Organizational Dynamics*

*whose dedication and hard work are very much  
appreciated by the entire Organizational Dynamics  
community.*

*We extend to our new alumni and to Marie our  
heartfelt thanks and sincere best wishes for contin-  
ued success.*

—Becky Collins

### Calendar

June 17	<a href="#">Information Session</a> for prospective or current Organizational Dynamics students interested in the new P3 concentration
June 21	<a href="#">Information Session</a> for prospective students in Organizational Dynamics
July 4	Independence Day—Program Office and University closed; no classes
August 1	Deadline for applications for admission to the Fall 2006 term
September 4	Labor Day—Program Office and University closed; no classes
September 11	<a href="#">Fall Term courses</a> begin
September 16	Fall Brunch

### Spotlight on Members

New Members:  
Douglas DiPiero, ETS  
Patricia Kidd, Harris Interactive (renewal)

**JOSEPH AMES, '04**, is married to Joanne Oppermann.

**BETH BIRMINGHAM, Ph.D.**, is serving as a visiting professor of leadership at Cornerstone Christian College in Cape Town, South Africa.

**BRIAN DELGROSS, '96**, has moved to Atlanta and is working in IT for Paul, Hastings, Janofsky and Walker, LLP

**GEORGE J. EHRGOTT, '05**, has been elected to a two-year term as Co-Chair for the Telecom Industry Group (TIG) of the National Minority Supplier Development Council. In addition, he recently served as Chair for the Supercomm2005 Supplier Diversity Summit. He was also recently elected to the board of Directors for the Minority Supplier Development Council of PA-NJ-DE—the regional affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council—which facilitates growth opportunities between minority business enterprises and member corporations.

**DEREK HUNSBERGER, '05**, was a winner of Penn's Models of Excellence Award. These awards are given to exemplary employees of the University who demonstrate "extraordinary innovation, initiative, leadership, cost-effectiveness, and a deep commitment to service, [and who] provide models of outstanding accomplishments, above and beyond job and performance expectations."

**MARILYN A. MASSARO STIKO, '05**, has been appointed Chair of Public Relations for the Association of Career Professionals—Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

### Reorganization of Organizational Dynamics Division

Dr. Larry Starr announced on April 28 a major change in the structure and functioning of the Organizational Dynamics Center and Degree Programs:

"Organizational Dynamics has entered a new phase of organization development: The Center for Organizational Dynamics and the Organizational Dynamics Degree program have been merged into a single comprehensive structure. This means that activities and projects that support the academic mission and educational objectives of our Master's Degree program, such as those listed below, will continue but will be fully integrated:

- community activities such as alumni events, special interest groups, and guest speakers for lectures or workshops;
- membership in the Center;
- newsletter;
- special projects involving educational partners such as The ESOP Association and the Federal Executive Board;
- visiting Scholars, Affiliated Faculty, Visiting Doctoral Students;
- funded research projects for our scholars, faculty and students;
- the highest level of applied scholarship to our students and constituents provided by our unique trans-disciplinary teaching faculty from the arts and humanities, social sciences and professional organizational disciplines.

"As a result of this development, the role of the Center Associate Director has ended. We are continuing to study the needs of our organization and to consider structure and skill options that will be most beneficial to our continued success."

### Business Journal Spotlights Organizational Dynamics

In case you missed it, the *Philadelphia Business Journal* of May 26 carried an article about the Organizational Dynamics Program. You may read the article on the *Business Journal* website by clicking [here](#).

### Spotlight on Organizational Dynamics Faculty

Visiting Scholar, **DR. STEVEN FREEMAN**, is very much in the public eye these days. In the most recent issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine, his work is cited by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., in Kennedy's article about the 2004 Presidential election. On June 8, copies of Steve's (with Joel Bleifuss) new book, *Was the 2004 Presidential Election Stolen?* were delivered to the Organizational Dynamics Program Office. If the ringing of the phone is any indication, you should see Steve featured in just about every medium in coming weeks! To order the book from Amazon, click [here](#).

Dr. James Larkin has retired from his position in the Graduate School of Education. Dr. Larkin will continue to teach in the Organizational Dynamics Program.

**DR. JOHN POURDEHNAD's** article, "Synthetic (Integrative) Project Management" has been accepted for publication in the 2007 Handbook of Business Strategy.

An article co-written by **DR. POURDEHNAD** and Organizational Dynamics students **JOHN P. MAIORANA, BRUCE M. WARREN, AND MAUREEN P. WRIGHT** has been accepted for presentation at the 50th annual meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences. The article is entitled "Unlearning/Learning Organizations," and you can access the abstract [here](#).

### Spotlight on our Newest Alumni

*'Twas a grand, grand day for all, as some 70 Organizational Dynamics students were transformed into our newest alumni on Monday, May 15, at Penn's very special 250th Commencement. Though rain threatened the celebrated Walk through the center of campus, spirits remained high among the graduates and their loved ones. Someone asserted that her grandmother once said that rain on such an occasion signifies cleansing and a new beginning. Our jubilant graduates would certainly agree!*

*Since pictures are worth you-know-what, we are forsaking our usual text format to share some of the joy with all of you.*

A must for every momentous occasion, the dignitaries gather prior to the Walk down — appropriately— Locust Walk. Along with Benjamin Franklin on the bench is Penn President Amy Gutman, with Commencement Speaker Jodie Foster.



Honorary degree recipients in the back row include, l. to r., Steve Wynn; Nobel Laureate Dr. Lawrence Klein; Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson; Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; Dr. Judith Pollock Kline; and Provost Ronald J. Daniels.



Seen here in the Program Office prior to the traditional "Walk," Larry Jacobson, left, and Marie Flick were Honorary Standard Bearers for Organizational Dynamics graduates this year.



Let the ceremonies begin! The stirring sound of the bagpipes is the traditional call to march.



University alumni proudly carry banners denoting their year of graduation as they parade down Locust Walk.



Marie and Larry leading the Organizational Dynamics contingent.

### The smiles say it all!



At left, walking the Walk are Lee Ann Norman, Wojcek Dworkowski, and Scott McKentley.



At right, Jackie Taylor-Powell, and Kishesha Carter flank an interloper from another school!



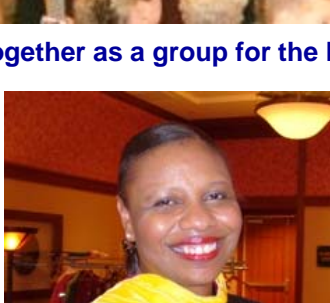
Below, left: Chris Carrao, Nikolas Sizgorich, and Barry Hiltz.



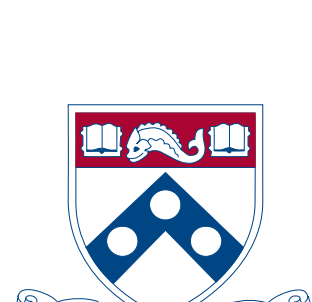
Dr. Dominic Volini, left, faculty and Dr. Larry Starr, Program Director



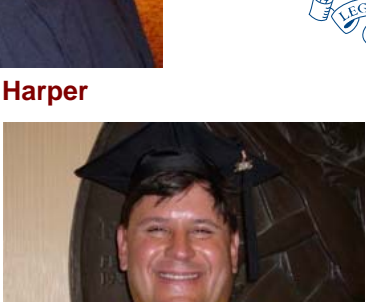
Together as a group for the last time, the Class of 2006 stands before an admiring group of family and friends.



Jessie Harper



Frank Elchert



Frank McCormick



Joe Fasanello, Master of Philosophy



Above, Barry Hiltz is flanked by Dr. Joan Kosove, Dr. Korshin's wife, who assisted in making the presentations, and Dr. Larry Starr, Program Director.

At right, Mike Boyer with Larry Starr and Joan Kosove.

### The Korshin Awards 2006

*The Paul J. Korshin Award for Academic Achievement is given annually to the two graduates who have finished at the top of the class. This year, honors went to Michael Boyer and Barry Hiltz.*

