



John V. Roach Dean of the Neeley School of Business

Homer Erekson's past academic year as John V. Roach Dean of TCU's Neeley School of Business was characterized by numerous accomplishments and awards, both individually and for the School.

Perhaps particularly gratifying for Erekson was his receiving the first TCU Honors Alumni Award, which subsequently will be named the Homer Erekson Honors Alumni Award. He was named to the International Initial Accreditation Committee for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and served on the editorial board for *International Journal of Business Innovation and Research*. Erekson also stayed busy speaking at more than a dozen national and local events including the AACSB International Assessment Conference and the CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) Conference on Major Gift Fundraising.

At a time when other business schools are facing budget cuts and faculty layoffs, Erekson said the Neeley School is fortunate to have successfully recruited eight outstanding full-time faculty, including Ray Pfeiffer, new chair of the department of accounting, and Ray Smilor, inaugural Robert and Edith Schumacher Executive Faculty Fellow in Innovation and Technology.

"At the core of great business schools is a great faculty," he said, "so we are very pleased with our new appointments."



Last spring, AACSB International, the leading international accrediting agency for management education, renewed the Neeley School's business accreditation, which Erekson called a "very significant accomplishment with less than 5 percent of business schools worldwide having earned this achievement."

"It is a testimony to the high quality of work by our faculty and staff in building top tier undergraduate and graduate degree programs," he said.

Other Neeley School accomplishments during the 2008-2009 academic year included being ranked 34th in *Business Week's* Best Undergraduate Business Schools and 18th in *U.S. News and World Report's* Best Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Programs. *Forbes* named the School's MBA program among the Best Business Schools for Return on Investment, and it was ranked first in Texas for the CPA exam pass rate. A Neeley School student team placed first in the Texas Real Estate MBA Case Competition, and a student project was rated a Top 5 MBA Social Entrepreneurship Project at the Social Entrepreneurship and Educational Consortium.

Erekson said one of the most gratifying aspects of working at the Neeley School is the extraordinary support by alumni and friends.

"Business leaders from around the world visit the Neeley School to bring important perspectives on current business issues," he said, "and support for the School and TCU is growing nationally."

Since building a nationally prominent business school requires resources to fuel the vision, Erekson said the Neeley School has been fortunate to receive several significant gifts as part of *The Campaign for TCU*. Support for the School has now



eclipsed \$25 million and includes two new endowed faculty positions – the Barry and Antoinette Davis Entrepreneurship-in-Residence held by Brad Hancock and the aforementioned Schumacher Executive Faculty Fellow.

Erekson is encouraged by the School's past successes and optimistic about its promising future.

“My first 18 months at TCU have been focused on talking with Neeley's diverse partner base, both within the Neeley School and TCU and beyond, to develop a bold strategic plan to focus the priorities for the next five years for the School. While there are so many accomplishments for Neeley School faculty, staff and students which have brought national recognition, I believe we are positioned to enhance our programs and deepen our financial support so that we can continue development of a premier business school.”