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UNH Whittemore School Awards Professorships

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Four professors with the Whittemore School of Business and Economics have been awarded professorships in recognition of their substantial contributions to the business school.

“The decision on these awards was made after considering input from faculty, carefully reviewing donor wishes, funding uses and consulting with department chairs and others. It was an extremely difficult decision because of the few number of professorships available and the many outstanding faculty who were deserving of the awards,” said Steve Bolander, dean of the Whittemore School.

Ross Gittell, professor of management, has been awarded the James R. Carter Professorship in Management. Gittell received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, M.B.A. from University of California at Berkeley, and A.B in Economics from the University of Chicago.

In 2002 Gittell received UNH’s Excellence in Public Service award and in 2004 was named Outstanding Associate Professor.

Gittell is the author of two books, *Renewing Cities* (Princeton University Press, 1993) and *Community Organizing: Building Social Capital as a Development Strategy* (with Avis Vidal, Sage Publications, 1998). He has published in numerous academic journals including the *New England Economic Review*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Regional Studies*, *National Civic Review* and *Journal of Entrepreneurial and Small Business Finance*.

John Becker-Blease, and Stephen Ciccone, assistant professors of finance, have been awarded a dual appointment to the Reginald G. Atkins Professorship in support of the new Atkins Strategic Investment Center and investment group.

Becker-Blease received a Ph.D. in finance from the University of Oregon, bachelors degrees in history from the University of New Hampshire and in finance and insurance from the University of Florida. In 2004, he received the Whittemore School Teaching Excellence Award.

His areas of research interest are corporate governance, capital structure, and entrepreneurial finance. Ongoing projects include an examination of the relation between antitakeover provisions, state antitakeover laws, and shareholders’ wealth and an investigation of the price increase associated with firms’ addition to the S&P 500 Index.

Ciccone obtained his Ph.D. in finance from Florida State University. He studied accounting at the University of Florida where he received bachelor's and master's degrees. He is a Certified Public Accountant and prior to entering academia, he worked for Arthur Andersen, LLP as an auditor.

He has taught courses in financial management, investments, and derivative securities. His research interests include stock return anomalies, international corporate governance, and analyst forecast issues.

He has published in a number of academic journals including *Managerial Finance*, the *Journal of Behavioral Finance*, the *Journal of Asset Management*, *Accounting Enquiries*, and the *Journal of Research in Finance*.

Udo Schlenrich, associate professor of hospitality management and director of the William Rosenberg International Center of Franchising, has been awarded the Rosenberg Chair of Franchising and Entrepreneurship in support of Rosenberg Center activities.

Schlenrich is a graduate of the Lausanne Hotel Management School in Switzerland, Cornell University, and holds his Ph.D. from Strathclyde University.

His primary areas of research lie in the investigation and theoretical modeling of the key drivers of customer loyalty and franchising research. He is a member of the International Franchise Association's Education Board and was also a founding member of the Scottish Tourism Research Unit, which advises UK and international government bodies and financial institutions on tourism planning and infrastructure development. His teaching focus lies in the areas of strategic management, international hospitality finance and development, and convention management