



## Robert and Maria Lowdon Chair of Finance

In his 21st year as the Lowdon Chair of Finance at Texas Christian University, Christopher B. Barry sees his role as changing somewhat to become more of a mentor to the younger faculty in the Neeley School of Business.

“I like to help our younger faculty produce quality publications that enhance the view of them and also the view of TCU globally,” he said.

He and colleagues Steve Mann, Vassil Mihov and Mo Rodriguez recently published articles in journals that Barry regards as being in the “top level of finance worldwide.”

“Interest Rate Changes and the Timing of Debt Issues” was published in April in the *Journal of Banking and Finance*, and “Corporate Debt Issuances and the Historical Level of Interest Rates” appeared in *Financial Management* last fall.

Barry also spent time during the 2008-2009 academic year providing Neeley faculty with detailed information on finance cases to add to their curricula to increase the quality of their teaching.

“I gave them helpful cases and especially lots of details on proper solutions, slides for the final points, and emphasis for what is helpful in various topics,” he said.

Barry enjoys helping his students and colleagues make connections; in his opinion, that is the “primary thing” in teaching because it is valuable and useful. For example, Boyko Delov, a student in one of Barry’s MBA classes, was an “excellent member” who was



having difficulty finding a job. Barry told certain members of his EMBA class, who work in the corporate world, about Delov and helped him make that connection.

“I ended up passing details of him (Delov) on to some of the key members of our EMBA class, and now they are taking seriously the possibility of hiring him because they think very highly of him and he also likes very much those EMBA’s I connected him to.”

As chair of the recruiting committee to hire new finance faculty, Barry was instrumental in hiring Antonio Macias, “an excellent new finance professor who we are delighted to have here at TCU and who has excellent ability to write well and teach well.” Macias came from Purdue University, where he earned his doctorate in finance. He also holds an undergraduate degree in engineering from Monterey Tech in Mexico and two master’s degrees in engineering from Stanford University.

Barry’s daughter-in-law, Adriana Barry, is from Monterey originally, and she and her husband and three boys speak both English and Spanish. So Barry initiated another connection – he plans to introduce his son’s family, who live in Austin, to the Macias family.

Barry himself speaks and teaches in both English and Spanish. Recently he taught in Spanish to the executive MBAs from Chile that attend TCU each year.

“Never in my life have I had so many clapping and cheering and having pictures made with me after the presentation,” he said. “They obviously truly enjoyed what they learned in that course.”

He gave solutions to his finance cases to the group in both Spanish and English, and he plans to prepare Macias to eventually teach the class.



Barry said the Neeley School is reinstating and expanding the executive education program through the Charles Tandy Executive Education Center, a program that was discontinued for 10 years. The daylong or weeklong sessions help executives learn new skills.

“Say a lawyer is named vice president for finance at his company,” Barry said. “Our executive education program helps him learn something about finance so he can do his job better.”

The decision to rejuvenate the program is due in large part, Barry said, to current Neeley School Dean Homer Erikson as well as his predecessors.

“Our current and recent deans have raised the quality of the business school,” he said. “We have very high quality in all areas – we’re publishing in more high quality journals, for instance. Our prospective faculty have to both teach and do research/write or we won’t hire them.”

Barry continues to serve as associate editor for *Emerging Markets Review*, *Latin American Business Review* and *Journal of Investing*, journals that he says produce “useful and helpful detailed information that assists people who need to learn new things about a wide range of topics.” He said he is grateful to hold a chair named for the Lowdons because “they have done so many good things” for TCU and Fort Worth.

You could say that Barry has done many good things as well in his role as mentor, connector and role model in the Neeley School at TCU.

