READY TO COLLABORATE

UMEÅ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
USBE 2019
A WORD FROM THE DEAN

It is essential that an academic institution such as ours provides the conditions for high quality and socially relevant education, research, and collaboration. This is achieved by operating on a scientific basis, being independent and dynamic, and having an international perspective as well as a regional and national base.

In 2019, the business school together with the USBE board and advisory boards developed a new strategy. It establishes an updated vision and mission that reflects our international perspective, our responsibility in relation to the challenges of society, and how we, as a significant player in the region where we are geographically located, contribute to the region’s development and provision of skills.

Our mission is to educate responsible individuals who, with insights into the challenges of society and regardless of their future professional role, can make a difference both locally and globally. We do this by integrating sustainable development in our education, and the research environment we provide allows both breadth and depth in a way that encourages the initiation of new research areas while maintaining and developing established areas. Through collaboration, we ensure the relevance of our education, prepare our students for working life, and give them the opportunity to get in touch with potential employers already during their studies.

Our education should be sustainable over time and at the same time be relevant. The ongoing digital transformation, coupled with, among other things, artificial intelligence and automation, is a societal process with a potentially large impact on business, the public sector, and individuals, and this is taken into account as we develop our programs. Work started in 2019 and will continue in 2020.

In 2019 new courses were initiated, existing courses were revised, and research applications were written and granted, and we continue to conduct research that makes a difference. Together with our students and collaborative partners, we create ideas and developments, and I look forward to a 2020 where we together with them and the staff of the business school continue in this direction.

For USBE, which celebrated its 30-year anniversary this past year, a new decade awaits with exciting opportunities!

"I am proud to lead a business school where we work to maintain and develop such an environment and provide ourselves with the conditions and commitment to stimulate new initiatives and orientations and to make a difference regionally, nationally, and internationally."  

SOFIA LUNDBERG, DEAN
Our programs are characterized by student-centered learning. We strive to design courses so that they encourage students to take an active role in their own learning process, stimulate students’ curiosity and innovation, and provide opportunities for reflection.

With the vision of being relevant regionally, nationally, and internationally, we give our students a competitive starting point when they leave us. That is why we are working with strategic partners and are working to strengthen our relationship with our alumni.

The business school provides an international environment due to the large proportion of international students and staff. During their time with us, students are given opportunities for exchange studies at our partner universities around the world. High-quality education in an international environment gives us and our students the opportunity to develop a good international understanding and intercultural competence.

A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMS AND COURSES IN AN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

We offer education from a basic to an advanced level, including postgraduate education. All programs are located on campus and are characterized by a clear progression from one level to the next.

QUALITY ASSURANCE OF LEARNING

At the beginning of 2019, USBE established the Committee for Teaching and Learning (CTL), which is a preparatory body working on behalf of the management team, primarily with strategic issues. The CTL will ensure that our education complies with national and international guidelines for quality in education. The CTL is led by the Head of Teaching and Learning and consists of study directors and teacher representatives from each department.

NEW COURSE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The course New Venture Creation provides an opportunity for our students to create and assess new entrepreneurial ventures in collaboration with external stakeholders. The course is an example of how USBE is working closely with stakeholders to solve societal problems. The 2019 course featured Umeå Municipality and presented challenges for the students to solve by creating new ventures. The course is given in close collaboration with Umeå Municipality, Uminova eXpression, and Uminova Innovation.

NEW NAMES FOR THE PROGRAMS IN STATISTICS

The new program titles are The Program in Statistics and Data Science and the Master’s Program in Statistics and Data Science. Linked to the name changes, the content of the bachelor’s program has been updated to increase the elements of statistical programming and machine learning. Among other things, the new course introduction to Data Science is being developed.

NEW DISTANCE COURSES IN STATISTICS AND ECONOMICS

Within the Department of Statistics, two new distance courses were given during the fall of 2019, namely Statistics and Data Analysis - The art of learning from data and Statistical Programming.

The Department of Economics has developed two new distance courses, both of which have received a large number of applicants. In the course The Consumer, the Environment and Society the goal is to increase the understanding of the concept of welfare, which includes both material prosperity and other dimensions of human well-being.

In the course The Firm, the Environment, and Society current questions that affect most companies are the main focus of the course. Questions like: Does a company have responsibility to society beyond its shareholders? Can a successful enterprise at the same time be valuable to society?

LATEST NEWS ON EDUCATION

FUNDS GRANTED FOR COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Maria Karlsson (Department of Statistics) and Galina Biedenbach (Department of Business Administration) have been awarded funds under the initiative “AI educational development 2019, AI Competence for Sweden @ Unité.” With these funds, Maria will develop a new course – Statistical Machine Learning for the Social Sciences – and Galina will develop the course Marketing, and the goal is to develop course content with a focus on AI and thus increase the students’ knowledge of AI in marketing.

NEW COURSE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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USBE INNOVATION CAMP 2019

Together with the industry, this intense 2.5-day Innovation Camp aims to provide students taking the Innovation Management course at USBE with real world experience working with leading companies in their industries where they will be challenged to develop innovative solutions for tomorrow’s problems. This is a joint venture with MacGregor Group AB and Umeå Energi AB.
Collaboration allows us to have a good dialogue with the business community, the public sector, our selected partner universities, and our alumni. In 2019, we continued to develop the Career Center, we increased our alumni activities, and we had a large number of guest lectures from businesses and the community as part of our courses.

Self-leadership through program-specific workshops

Our programs provide a broad foundation and include many optional paths. Thus, it is of critical importance that the students themselves take responsibility for gaining relevant knowledge and experience in their areas of their interest in connection with their personal competences and their work life perspectives early on in their education.

Part of working with this perspective has been an organized program specific workshop during the second semester of the professional degree programs. Those who have participated have given very positive feedback on the initiative and point out that it is good that someone from the outside raises these issues and reminds how important it is to actively work with these issues early in one’s education.

“Great, it gave me clarity and made me think about it in a different and better way.”

“Interesting to hear others’ perspectives on the future. These questions are something you often don’t talk about with your student peers.”

Alumni meeting in Stockholm

As part of an ongoing tradition, we also arranged an alumni meeting in 2019 during the Winterbotten weeks at the Grand Hotel in Stockholm. This year’s theme focused on the roles of digitalization, capital, and mindset for a sustainable future. We invited our alumni to a multidisciplinary program with a PhD in Strategic Sustainability Studies from KTH, a PhD in Practical Philosophy, and an alumni from the financial industry.

“Very rewarding with three approaches to sustainability. Educational for those of us who have only considered the issue at a distance and have never faced it fully.”

Alumni meeting in Gothenburg

This year, for the first time, an alumni meeting was held in Gothenburg, where 250 of our alumni are located. The keynote speaker was our alumni Gitan Carstedt, who has held senior positions within Volvo, IKEA, and the Clinton Climate Initiative. The theme for the venue was “Creating a sustainable future – the biggest leadership challenge of our time.”

The meeting took place at one of our alumni’s workplace and was fully booked (30 seats).

“Very nice, interesting, and rewarding! It was fun to meet all the alumni, and the exciting lecture gave a lot of food for thought.”

Alumni newsletter

During the year, we initiated a newsletter for our alumni in order to stay in touch and have the opportunity to communicate about our developments and activities. It is published twice a year, and as an alumni you are welcome to contact rickard.lindberg@umu.se if you wish to receive the newsletter.

Guest lectures

The Career Center offers open guest lectures to complement those given in different courses.

Examples of open guest lectures in 2019:
- Macro overview - Nordea’s chief economist
- To work as a Management Consultant - alumni working at Centiro
- Working with service design and innovation - alumni working at Ich
- Employee development and performance evaluation, a new approach - PwC
- To work as CFO for a municipality (Skellefteå) - alumni

A leader globally within the AACSB network based on their ability to lead and innovate in a way that leads to a positive change for society.

The motivation for Helena Helmersson was as follows: A leader and advocate for sustainability, Helena Helmersson has influenced the way corporations view sustainability.

Study visit to Stockholm

The course Statistical Application Areas considers the role of the statistician in society. Guest lectures and study visits are an important and appreciated part of the course and provide insights into the need for statistical knowledge. This year students and teachers visited The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå), Statistics Sweden (SCB), Scandinavian Development Services (SIDS), and Statistic in Stockholm. In addition, an alumni from Paradox Interactive gave a guest lecture. In Umeå, Umeå Municipality, the Swedish Stroke Register, and Sogret were visited.
2019 was an eventful year for USBE. We continued to strengthen our existing partnerships by participating in international networking events and conferences, inviting partner universities to Umeå, and signing a new exchange agreement with a triple crown business school.

**STUDENT MOBILITY AND INTERNATIONALIZATION**

163 incoming students in 2019

133 outgoing students in 2019

164 courses offered at USBE 2019

69 mobility agreements

11 internships abroad

507 first choice applications to the Professional Degree Programs and the Statistical Program

**ENHANCED COOPERATION WITH FRANCE**

During 2019, we strengthened our collaboration with France by signing a new student mobility agreement with Montpellier Business School, triple crown accredited (AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA).

In November, Campus France and the French Embassy hosted an event with a focus on double-degree agreements between Sweden and France. The participants included one of the international coordinators at USBE, representatives from businesses, and students and representatives from other Swedish and French higher education institutions.

In 2019, 48 students and 4 researchers were granted scholarships from The Foundation of Per & Elvor Wikström. The aim of the foundation is to support cooperation and integration in teaching, research, and the study of economics and law in French-speaking countries. The foundation seeks to achieve this aim primarily by funding scholarships granted to individual researchers and students at USBE at Umeå University.

**CONFERENCE AND ACTIVITIES**

During September, we had the pleasure to welcome five representatives from four partner universities to USBE’s Partner Day in order to strengthen our international collaborations. The Partner Day was a “pre-conference” to the 2019 EAIE conference in Helsinki. Our international coordinators were also present during the EAIE conference and met with several colleagues from our partner universities.

**NEW DIGITAL PLATFORM**

A new tool for student mobility will be implemented at Umeå University. USBE represented Umeå University and took part along with other Finnish and Swedish higher education institutions in Turku to discuss the development of the tool.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

We welcomed 163 incoming exchange students during 2019. Among the program students at USBE, 133 studied abroad and 11 conducted their internships abroad. Most popular is going to Portugal.

**MOBILITY ENCOURAGEMENT**

The majority of the programs at USBE are customized to support student mobility, and 1-3 semesters are designated for studies abroad. We have around 60 exchange agreements with partner universities, all selected for the students at USBE. Master’s degree students within business administration have the possibility to participate in a double-degree program with some of our partner universities. We offer our students a wide range of high-quality options, hoping that as many as possible will take this opportunity and gain valuable insights and experiences while studying abroad.

I had some great lectures and practical group works with focus on international business. Beside my studies I also got to know new friends from all around the world and have had some nice month in the beautiful nature of Sweden”

Eduard Obernauer, incoming exchange student from MCI Management Center Innsbruck

**My exchange enabled me to grow both on a personal and professional level. At the same time I had time to take part of fair and got to explore bucket-list places such as the Great Wall of China”**

Pernilla Danielsson, exchange student to School of Business, Renmin University of China

**MASTERS’ STUDY FAIR IN HAMBURG**

USBEx took part in the Master and More fair in Hamburg, Germany, in December. Two of our study advisors for the Master’s Program participated. The fair in Hamburg was visited by 6,000 people over the course of the day, and this was part of an investment that USBEx is making in order to recruit more international students to our Master’s Programs.
The USBE graduation ceremony is a fine tradition, and this year it was extra festive as the business school celebrated 30 years. Aula Nordica was filled with 250 students and their guests. The students received a diploma from Dean Sofia Lundberg. During the ceremony, some prizes also were handed out. The ceremony ended with a mingle for all guests and students.

THE USBE PEDAGOGICAL PRIZE
Jessica Fahlén, director of studies at the Department of Statistics, was awarded the USBE Pedagogical Prize 2019.

Jessica is recognized for her well-structured approach to planning learning activities in order to reach learning objectives, with adaptation to the problems and needs of students.

THE USBE SCIENTIFIC AWARDS
The scientific prizes are awarded by USBE Research Institute to celebrate scientific writing and to distinguish high-quality research in the fields of business administration, economics and statistics. The 2019 award winners were Tabeeq Raza Ullah, Emma Persson, and Mattias Vesterberg.

MORE PRIZES AWARDED TO OUR STUDENTS
SWEDISH TRADE FEDERATION THESIS PRIZE
Johannes Pers and Linn Grubbström, alumni of the Retail and Supply Chain Management Program, received the Swedish Trade Federation thesis prize in 2019 for the thesis “Self-service technology in the restaurant industry” that they wrote in 2018, and they received a scholarship of SEK 20,000 awarded by the Hakon Swenson Foundation.

SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIP IN ECONOMICS
The team from USBE came in second place in “SM i ekonomi 2019”. The team consisted of Felix Malmström, Emil Junkka, and Markus Lindström, all of whom are in their third year with specialization in business administration and economics.

IDEA 2019
One of the five winning teams came from the USBE with the competition grant HuntIn and the team Christian Esselin and Fredrik Esselin.

GLOBAL SWede 2019
On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Institute invites Sweden’s higher education institutions to nominate a student from a country outside the EU/EEA for the Global Swede Award. Munashe Chivaura, a student in the Master’s Program in Business Development and Internationalization, was Umeå University’s Global Swede 2019.

SACO STUDENT FAIR 2019
USBSE was represented at the Saco Student Fair in Stockholm in November, which is Sweden’s largest education fair. In addition to our stand, which was staffed with students and staff from all departments, we gave two seminars each day.
USBE’s overall goal for research is a dynamic research environment in which research of high international standard is conducted within our three main disciplines of business administration, economics, and statistics.

Achieving this goal requires, among other things, that employees collaborate within the business school, with Umeå University, and with other Swedish and international universities as well as with the surrounding community. This international perspective allows us to contribute nationally and regionally and to act in accordance with our purpose and our vision. Our research is funded through grants from the state, but also to a large extent by external grants. External research funding comes from research councils, foundations, and external partners in the business and public sectors.

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

Postgraduate education is strategically important for contributing to the overall quality of our education and for the future provision of skills within our own and other public and private organizations. With the current national structure for funding postgraduate education, the conditions for this are dependent on the existence of external research funding for doctoral students. This is an area where we were challenged in 2019. However, the doctoral students we have are very good, and this is not least indicated by once again having a Wallander scholarship awarded to a doctoral student.

A SELECTION OF NEW POSITIONS OF TRUST 2019

An important form of collaboration is our researchers’ positions of trust, their participation in the debate, and the presentation of their research for stakeholders outside academia. Below is a selection of new positions of trust in 2019.

Cramsålsikapet

Associate Professor Anders Lundquist, member

European Accounting Association (EAA), Professor Tobias Svensson, Scientific Committee member

National Board of Health and Welfare

Professor Maria Eriksson, scientific advisor (within statistics)

Sante - Scandinavian Association Network for Teaching Enterprise Systems

Associate Professor Annika Anderson, board member

SNS, Board of Trustees

Professor Sofia Lundberg, selected member

Stiftelsen för miljöstrategisk forskning (MSTRA), Professor Thomas Aronsson, board member

Svenska statistikföreningen

Associate Professor Maria Karlsson, vice chair

Svenska revisionsakademien

Professor Tobias Svensson, member

The Swedish Society for Medical Statistics, PMS

Professor Ingeborg Karlsson, board member

The Swedish Association of Graduates in Business Administration and Economics

Director of Studies Dan Fristad, vice chair

Umeå University Board

Professor Marie Viberg, teacher representative

RESEARCH AT USBE

Over the course of 2019, the staff of the business school in various ways have shown that they are internationally competitive and through their research have generated new and important knowledge for the development of society in a number of areas. The research conducted includes more basic policy-oriented research as well as theoretical and empirical research and includes the application of quantitative and qualitative methods and the development of new methods.

We are at the forefront in several different areas and look forward to a 2020 where we will continue to push the envelope through cutting-edge research.

AWARDED GRANTS IN 2019

EU Interreg Botnia Atlantic

Main applicant: Heidi Kuusimäki, University of Vaasa, Co-applicant: Tomas Björnquist, Department of Business Administration.

Project: New Space Digital Economy Innovation Center (Kvarken SpaceEco).

Forte

Main applicant: Herman SIU, Department of Business Administration, Co-applicant: Maria Bååth, Örebro University, and Henri Corvellec, Lund University.

Project: Relationships within circular business models.

Forte

Main applicant: Minna Gerlach, Department of Economics, Co-applicants: Maria Josephson, and Gunnar Malmberg, Chile.

Project: Non-response in longitudinal surveys of healthy aging.

Swedish Competition Authority

Main applicant: Thomas Brodsgård, Department of Economics.

Project: Competition for burnable waste – An analysis of the waste-incineration market.

Swedish Competition Authority

Main applicant: Nils Siudahl, Institute of Rural Economics, Co-applicant: David Freudenthal, Department of Economics.

Project: The effect of the number of bidders on the probability of collusion.

Maria Ann and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation

Main applicant: Marie Viberg, Department of Statistics, Co-applicant: Alina von Daver, ACTWest, USA, and Jorge Gonzalez, Pontificia Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile.

Project: Innovative statistical methods for standardised achievement tests to ensure comparability and fairness of test scores.

Regiion Västerbotten

Main applicant: Heidi Kuusimäki, University of Vaasa, Co-applicant: Tomas Björnquist, Department of Business Administration.

Project: New Space Digital Economy Innovation Center (Kvarken SpaceEco).

Riksbankens Jubelumfond

Main applicant: Tomas Björnquist, Department of Business Administration, Co-applicants: Nathalie Galm and Sajith Nair, Department of Business Administration.

Project: Organizing interactive spaces – Towards understanding, explaining and influencing effective support systems for new venture creation.

The Foundation of Sävstaholm

Main applicant: Herman SIU, Department of Business Administration.

Project: Prognosis of Prenatal Diagnostics for Down Syndrome – A study of regional decision making.

Swedish Research Council

Main applicant: Marie Viberg, Department of Statistics, Co-applicant: Jorge Gonzalez, Pontificia Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile.

Project: Innovative methods for comparing standardized achievement tests over time.

Regional Council of Ostrobotnia

Main applicant: Heidi Kuusimäki, University of Vaasa, Co-applicant: Tomas Björnquist, Department of Business Administration.

Project: New Space Digital Economy Innovation Center (Kvarken SpaceEco).

The Foundation of Sävstaholm

Main applicant: Herman SIU, Department of Business Administration.

Project: Innovative methods for comparing standardized achievement tests over time.

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SNF, Board of Trustees

Professor Sofia Lundberg, selected member

Stiftelsen för miljöstrategisk forskning (MSTRA), Professor Thomas Aronsson, board member

Svenska statistikföreningen

Associate Professor Maria Karlsson, vice chair

Svenska revisionsakademien

Professor Tobias Svensson, member

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Professor Ingeborg Karlsson, board member

The Swedish Association of Graduates in Business Administration and Economics

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RESEARCH

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Achieving this goal requires, among other things, that employees collaborate within the business school, with Umeå University, and with other Swedish and international universities as well as with the surrounding community. This international perspective allows us to contribute nationally and regionally and to act in accordance with our purpose and our vision. Our research is funded through grants from the state, but also to a large extent by external grants. External research funding comes from research councils, foundations, and external partners in the business and public sectors.
46th WINTER CONFERENCE IN STATISTICS
This year’s conference theme was “Machine Learning” and attracted 60 participants to Hemsana. One of the keynote speakers was Corinna Cortés, Head of Google Research, who gave insights into the latest research results on machine learning and AI at Google.

WORKSHOP IN SHANGHAI
In September, Tomas Blomquist, Vladimir Vanyushyn, and Angelos Kosti, Department of Business Administration, visited Fudan University and the Nordic Center in Shanghai and participated in the Nordic-China Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research Seminar and Workshop. The seminar and workshop were organized by Johan Lidström, USBE, and Naja Morell Hjortshøj, Aarhus University, who are based there as visiting researchers. They have created a platform for academic exchanges between innovation and entrepreneurship scholars from the Nordic countries and China.

“EKONOMIDAGEN I NORR” IN SKELEFTÖA
Just as previous year, Dean Sofia Lundberg moderated “Ekonomidagen i norr”. USBE participated with staff and students. This year’s lectures related to how digital development affects financial function in different ways, for example, in terms of organization, work environment, and leadership.

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION
USBE develops tailor-made development programs which is based on an understanding of the importance of respecting the competence of the other parties and from there developing an exchange of experiences. We have a broad and flexible portfolio of competencies and work with modules that can be combined in both standardized and tailor-made offerings.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019
THE UMEA TRADE GALA 2019
USBE is a collaboration partner with Handelsgalan (The Umeå Trade Gala). We had the honor of presenting an award to the Sustainable Store of the year, which was given to the florist company Grankvist & Linne.

THE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM FUTURE RETAIL RECEIVES NEW FUNDING
Future Retail is about the transformation in the retail sector that is underway with new demands on retail. During the autumn and winter of 2019/2020, 12 selected companies participated in the program. In autumn 2020, the national program will start with 12 new companies. Elin Nilsson, Department of Business Administration, explores the initiative from a scientific perspective.

NEW DIRECTOR OF CERUM
In beginning of 2019, Docent Johan Lundberg, Department of Economics, was appointed as the new director for The Centre for Regional Science at Umeå University. Johan succeeds Professor Lars Westin who has been the director since the mid-1990s.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN EU LAW-MAKING
The special report 14/2019 by the European Court of Auditors presented the results of an assessment of the European Commission’s framework for consulting the public. Galina Biedenbach, Department of Business Administration, contributed to the audit by participating in an expert panel. The report is available on the ECA website in 23 EU languages.

SPACE DIGITAL ECONOMY INNOVATION CENTER WORKSHOP
USBE hosted a workshop on the new space digital economy that gathered participants from Luleå University of Technology, University of Vaasa, Umeå University, the Swedish University of Agriculture, and Yrkeshögskolan Nivia. Other participants came from, among others, Norra Skogsägarna, Formas, Region Västerbotten, Umeå Municipality, Sogeti, Tetto, Komatsu Forest, Sweco, and Robertsfors Municipality.

CERES’ 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
CERES - Center for Environmental and Natural Resource Economics - is part of USBE and Umeå University and is part of the Department of Forest Economics at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

Long before its formation ten years ago, researchers from both universities contributed to research and debate on environmental and natural resource issues.

The anniversary was celebrated in the fall of 2019 with several lectures and invited speakers and concluded with a full-day program in November. In the morning, CERES’ young researchers held lectures, and in the afternoon the audience listened to reflections on the importance of CERES throughout the years and how policies on the forest, transport, and climate should be shaped. Several of the speakers, who came from both business and academia, reflected on the worrying discrepancy between the science and the political ambitions that surround the field.

44 submitted research applications
95% of the teachers hold a PhD degree
40% of our activities consist of research.
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

ERIK KEMPE’S AWARD
The Department of Economics is the host institution for the award. The 2019 Erik Kempe Award went to Bård Hanstad, Oslo University, and Torben K. Mideskog, Uppsala University, for their article “Conservation Contracts and Political Regimes” published in Review of Economic Studies in 2017.

HEDELIUS SCHOLARSHIP
Angelo Kostis, Department of Business Administration, has been awarded a Hele- lius scholarship by the Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius Foundation and the Tore Browaldh Foundation for the 2020/2021 academic year for studies at Stanford University.

WALLANDER SCHOLARSHIP 2019
Virginia Rosales Orquera, Department of Business Administration, has received a scholarship for her thesis “The interplay of roles and routines: Situating, patterning, and performance in the emergency department”. The scholarship provides the opportunity for continued full-time research for three years.

TORE BROWALDH FOUNDATION, HANDELSBANKENS RESEARCH FOUNDATION
• Professor Thomas Amossen, Department of Economics, has received funding for two post doc positions from the Browaldh Foundation.
• Professor Giovanni Forchini and Professor Gauthier Lanot, Department of Economics, have received funding for the project "Modeling the persistence of shocks to earnings".

EMERALD/EFMD OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARDS
Virginia Rosales Orquera, Department of Business Administration, was one of the winners of the 2018 Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards (ODRA) for her thesis “The interplay of roles and routines: Situating, patterning, and performances in the emergency department”.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK (SDSN)
Since January 2019, USBE has been a member of SDSN, which is part of the UN and works to gather expertise from various fields from around the world to find proposals for solutions to the global challenges associated with the 17 global development goals and sustainable development.

ISO 14001
Since 2015, USBE has been certified according to ISO 14001. Our environmental management system is a well-integrated part of our overall management system and is adapted to the requirements from the University Chancellor’s Office, AACSB, and our overall management system and is adapted to the requirements from the University Chancellor’s Office, AACSB, and other stakeholders. Being ISO 14001 certified means that we undergo an external as well as an internal audit every year, which creates the conditions for continuous improvement. The 2019 external audit was passed without deviations, and the internal audit focused on staff training needs.

We are actively working to increase our knowledge of sustainable development, and our work in training responsible leaders for the future is based on the 17 global development goals. Through education, research, and collaboration with others, we create and disseminate knowledge that leads us to a more sustainable society where our researchers participate in the debate. Our sustainability work is coordinated by the Council for Sustainable Development.

SUSTAINABILITY AT USBE

AWARDS
Tabbqee Raza Ullah and Maria Bangsbo, Department of Business Administration, together with Devi Gnyawali, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech, USA, were awarded the 2019 Best Paper Award at the European Academy of Management for their paper “Dealing with the dark side of coopetition”.
Lucas Haskel, Department of Business Administration, was awarded Best Research Proposal for his proposal “Social innovation for environmental sustainability” at NKF’s PhD workshop at the Nordic Academy of Management Conference in Vasa.
Angelos Kostis, Department of Business Administration, and Linde Rouzeau, HEC Montreal, and Mark de Rond, Cambridge University, were given the Best Paper Award by the Academy of Management. Their paper “A Matter of Life or Death: How Extreme Context Research Matters for Management and Organization Studies was published in Academy of Management Annals.

AGENDA 2030
USBE was invited to represent Umeå University at the Agenda 2030 conference in Umeå in November. The purpose of the conference was to increase knowledge about Agenda 2030, to identify good examples from Västerbotten, and to provide inspiration to implement more measures to achieve the goals of Agenda 2030. Dean Sofia Lundberg spoke about our work on Agenda 2030.

USBÉ IS THE HOST PARTNER
Umeå University and USBE acted as host partners for Sustainergie’s new educational program “A Sustainability Acceleration Project (ASAP)” in November.

The program is an arena for students, companies, experts, and organizations to work together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable society. A campus tour with full-day training for 400 students in sustainability and leadership is also conducted.
In 2019, USBE celebrated its 30-year anniversary and featured a year full of activities of various kinds. The three units that are part of USBE today – business administration, economics, and statistics – have been operating for more than fifty years and had built up their expertise individually before USBE was founded in 1989. Today, USBE also has an office and its own delegation scheme within Umeå University.

At a moment like this, it is natural to look back at how it all started. Since the beginning, there has been significant and active support from both the business community and Umeå University to form a business school. Private donations laid the foundation for the economy in the form of a fund, the USBE Endowment Fund (Stiftelsen för ekonomisk forskning – Handelshögskolefonden), that over the years has been able to continuously support the business school financially.

The university also sees the value of a business school that attracts students from all over Sweden and internationally. The business school of today has a strong research component and cooperates actively with the surrounding business community.

Professor Rolf Lundin was the one who took the initiative to establish a business school in Umeå. He saw the need and benefits of a business school in Umeå based on his experience from the USA. Lundin collaborated with the business community and the university management to establish a business school. Thirty years later, we are grateful to our first dean of the business school he established and the opportunities that we have been given to continuously develop it.

To be a successful business school, education and research should go hand in hand. Research and education must complement and reinforce each other and create a platform for collaboration with the business community and society as a whole. We have to make an impact today so that we can educate tomorrow’s leaders and so that our students can meet future challenges.

The 30-year anniversary celebration at the end of May began with the board’s “strategy week” with advisory bodies, board meeting and ended on Friday with an open lecture with Minister of Industry, Ibrahim Baylan before the anniversary party took place in the evening. Invited were staff and former staff as well as guests from the university, the Umeå Municipality, and the business community.

VISIT OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY IBRAHIM BAYLAN

Ibrahim Baylan talked about Sweden as the world’s first fossil-free nation and about Swedish energy and climate policy. Initially he talked about his own childhood in Turkey and how his family moved to Sweden, to a country with modern facilities and how luxurious he thought it was. His background as a student and chair of the student union in Umeå was also mentioned.

The university also sees the value of a business school that attracts students from all over Sweden and internationally. The business school of today has a strong research component and cooperates actively with the surrounding business community.

Professor Rolf Lundin was the one who took the initiative to establish a business school in Umeå. He saw the need and benefits of a business school in Umeå based on his experience from the USA. Lundin collaborated with the business community and the university management to establish a business school. Thirty years later, we are grateful to our first dean of the business school he established and the opportunities that we have been given to continuously develop it.

To be a successful business school, education and research should go hand in hand. Research and education must complement and reinforce each other and create a platform for collaboration with the business community and society as a whole. We have to make an impact today so that we can educate tomorrow’s leaders and so that our students can meet future challenges.

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THE USBE ENDOWMENT FUND

We thank you for new donations and are very grateful for the donations that laid the foundation for the USBE Endowment Fund.

NEW DONORS
Fredrik Allberg, Magnus Ericson and Helena Renström.

DONORS IN 1987

Would you, your company, or organization like to give a donation to the USBE Endowment Fund? We look forward to your contribution!

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In 2019, the USBE Board decided on a new strategy that is valid until 2025.

On “the strategy day” in May, the presentations and discussions of the board together with the International Advisory Board (IAB) and Business Advisory Board (BAB) provided very valuable input.

The themes were AI, with a lecture by Professor Virginia Dignum, Department of Computer Science at Umeå University, and The region’s development and the role of the business school in the region, with lectures by Business Manager Peter Junblad, Umeå Municipality, and Professor Lars Westin, CERUM.

A big thank you to everyone at USBE and to the members of the IAB and BAB who contributed to this solid and forward-looking work.

The fact that a board regularly evaluates how they work, by identifying both strengths and weaknesses, helps the board to develop its working methods and the quality of its work. In 2019, an evaluation was conducted, led by StyrelseAkademien. The results provided good guidance on how the board’s work can be further improved.

Together with the board, I look forward to another exciting year for USBE!

ANNA THOURSIE, CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

The Umeå School of Business, Economics, and Statistics has a Business Advisory Board (BAB) which is made up of experts from the business community and the public sector collaborating with the school in order to develop the school’s activities. The BAB meets twice a year.

Two new members were appointed during 2019.

BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: Nils-Olof Forsgren, Uminova Innovation AB

Marie Johanson, Swedbank

Tordbjörn Labbé, Planeco Nord

Sofia Lundberg, USBE (convenor) 

Hakon Johanson, Gnet Thornton New member

Anna-Karin Nilsson, Guller Group

Anna Pettersson, Region Västerbotten

Peter Robak, Kjorth AB

Oskar Ryb, Uminova iExpression

Tom Sarin, Log Max AB

Ann-Christine Schmitt, SkatteKon AB

Magnus Stenvall, Umeå Emergi AB New member

Krinka Säkström, Oksoi Emergi

Björn Stenåker, AkademiaddISON

EXTERNAL BOARD MEMBERS

Sophia Berglund, Dean of USBE

Xavier de Luna, Professor, USBE, Department of Statistics, teacher representative

Ruth Mannioxide, Dean, Umeå University, Faculty of Social Sciences

Ulrica Nygren, Senior Lecturer, USBE, Department of Business Administration, teacher representative

Thomas Ofosot, Professor, Umeå University, Department for Applied Physics and Electronics, teacher representative

Per-Olof Agero, Senior Lecturer, Department of Informatics, teacher representative

Gabriel Wallin, USBE, Department of Statistics, PhD student representative

David Grahain, Associate Professor, USBE, Department of Economics, substitute student representative

STUDENT REPRESENTATES elected by the Umeå University student body

Patric Bejer, Chair of the HHUS Student Association

Lisa Vik, Chair, Quality Committee, HHUS Student Association

CONSULTING

Lars Silvaer, Associate Head, USBE, Department of Business Administration

Lars Persson, Associate Head, USBE, Department of Economics

Maria Eriksson, Associate Head, USBE, Department of Statistics

Karl Johan Bonnahde, USBE, Head of teaching and learning

Mikael Lindblad (on leave), USBE, Administrative Manager

BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

The International Advisory Board (IAB) is an influential group of global policy and business leaders. The USBE’s collaboration with IAB strengthens the school’s international contacts and creates conditions for continuous dialogue with representatives of the international business community and academia from many different countries. IAB meets once a year for a couple of days. In between the meetings, the individual members of the group are in contact with each other with regards to various questions concerning their special areas of expertise.

BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Dr Rob Britton, Principal AI Learn, and Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University, USA

Professor Stewart R Cleugh, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, and Honorary Doctor at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Umeå University

Professor Marian Geldner, Professor of Economics, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Dr David O. Onigbagi, Professor and Director of Graduate Programs and Head of Department of Management, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech, USA

Håkan Olsofson, Vice President, Internal Audit at Ball Corporation, USA

Dr Devi R. Gnyawali, Professor and Director of Management, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech, USA

Dr Rob Britton, Principal AI Learn, and Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University, USA

Prof. Marian Geldner, Professor of Economics, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Dr. R. Onigbagi, Professor and Director of Graduate Programs and Head of Department of Management, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech, USA

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