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Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

Allan Young

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The study and practice of entrepreneurial finance and its associated relevance for the field of business venturing is now at long last secure in its place in the pantheon of well respected academic and professional disciplines. While initially perhaps thought of as no more than grist for the mill of those involved with personal self-enrichment and beyond the pale of concern with the scholarly dissemination of the world's accumulated valued wisdom, areas such as the study of venture capital, micro-financing, entrepreneurship management and other related pursuits have now established themselves as well worth the interest of those intimately pursuing serious and thoughtful academic study. Moreover, often funded by successful entrepreneurs themselves and the demand by the business community for employees who are not only well trained in the techniques of its functional sub-disciplines, but also creative in being able to reason about business pursuits with an entrepreneurial and innovative frame of mind, this scholarly interest has now spilled over into the teaching and instructional branches of our profession. While less than a decade ago few of the more well established and recognized schools (colleges) of business (management) gave much more than a nodding recognition in their curriculum and programs to financial entrepreneurship (or even the broader-based study of entrepreneurship itself), as of this writing well recognized entire schools and programs devoted exclusively to these areas abound in academe and few schools of higher education or universities can be found (not only in America, but now elsewhere) which do not provide a grouping of courses complemented by a business outreach program devoted to the preparation of students for careers in the practice of entrepreneurship with financial and venturing concerns at the heart of this endeavor. Accordingly, it could well be said that the field of study to which our journal is devoted (entrepreneurial finance and business ventures) may truly be among the fastest growing of academic programs, and it is clearly the case that scholarly inquiry in this area is not only alive and well, but positively thriving. The goal of **The Journal of Entrepreneurial Finance and Business Ventures** is to be one of the premiere outlets for this scholarship.

In the current issue a useful compilation of micro-finance literature is presented by **Brau** and **Woller**. They provide a review of over 350 articles in this field which address such sub-areas as self-sufficiency and sustainability, institutional products and allied services, best practices in micro-finance institutional management, client targeting, policy concerns, and the impact of micro-finance institutions on their clients, enterprises, households and the communities in which micro-financial institutions are located. This compendium should serve as an invaluable resource to future scholarship in the field. Then **Bathala**, **Bowlin** and **Dukes** examine the relationship between ownership differences among small firms and their financial policies. Using survey data for U.S. small enterprises, they conclude that the financial policies of such firms vary primarily by the type of ownership (private versus public) and by ownership differences (family-owned, closely-held or widely-held) within privately held firms. Variations in debt ratios among small firms are uncovered through estimation of a multiple regression equation. Next, shifting from the U.S. arena of entrepreneurial operation to the world of transition economies, where the contribution of such enterprises is so vital to the success of the transformation from command to market-based economies and where the effective management of liquidity concerns are critical to the success of small enterprises, **Prašnikar**, **Cirman** and **Pahor** analyze the factors affecting payment delays in Slovenia. They find that payment delays in Slovenia are related to the various risks involved with doing business with firms undergoing significant types of financial distress. Finally, **Pavlov**, **Poutziouris** and **Soufani** look at the effects of a firm's choice of liquid, but more expensive, forms of financing versus restrictive, but cheaper, sources of capital. They provide an explanation for the otherwise surprisingly high levels of expensive flexible financing employed by small enterprises in the U.K.

No letter from the editor can be complete without grateful acknowledgment of the unstinting efforts of those without whom the undertaking would be impossible. While others have been noted previously, in is case I would like to especially thank Susan B. Dean, our ever-understanding and hard working Managing Editor.

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