

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

on
the Occasion of
the
Presentation
of the

2004
ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
DEAN OF THE YEAR
AWARD

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Members of the AIB Executive, AIB Fellows and Colleagues, Members of my Family, Friends.

This is a very emotional day. To have been named 2004 Academy of International Business Dean of the Year is a magnificent honour for which I am truly grateful.

The award is not mine alone. It belongs to all members of the Schulich community.

Before I begin, a number of thank-you's are in order. To the AIB Fellows for selecting me as the Academy's Dean of the Year. To the Schulich School's AIB Members for supporting my nomination. And, in particular, to Bernie Wolf for his tireless work.

I am moved by your award. I am also touched by the fact that we are in Sweden, my adopted home. The entire Horváth family owes much to this country. My sister Katalin and my brother Zoltan live here. Speaking personally, my Swedish education was superb, as were the career opportunities the country offered.

My wife, Mona, is Swedish. Our two children were born here. In fact, my daughter Linn is even completing her PhD here in Stockholm, at Karolinska Institutet.

Since learning of the Dean of the Year award, I have reflected at some length on what brought me to this podium. Fate played a major role. Education did too.

During my life, I have had many blessings to count, even if they at first appeared in disguise.

As an adolescent, political events led my family and I from Hungary to Sweden. As a young adult, my employer suggested that I return to university to take an MBA. And during my studies, one of my professors convinced me that I should stay on and do a PhD.

The result of these many zigs and zags was that I could look at life through different lenses — as a Central European, a Scandinavian, an engineer, a strategist, an organizational expert and an educator. And after moving to Canada in the late 1970s, I continued to add to these “multiple perspectives”.

In 1988, when I was named a candidate for the position of Dean of York's business school, I worked to develop a vision for its future direction. In the process, I was able to draw heavily on my experience as a “citizen of the world” and as a strategist.

I recognized important parallels between Sweden and Canada. To be competitive, each country needed to “go global”. I also sensed that this same rule applied to Canada's business schools.

During the selection process, I made it clear that if I were chosen as Dean, I would move to internationalize the School.

My strategy had two important goals — to differentiate Schulich from other management schools, and to give it a strong competitive advantage both locally and globally.

As it turned out, we had just the right strategic window for internationalization. We also had an unexpected stroke of good luck. Ontario's provincial government had just decided it needed to establish a centre of excellence for international business.

Ultimately, five professional schools from three universities ultimately became partners in the Centre. As a member of this consortium, it was our role to develop an *international* MBA.

Although we didn't know it at the time, this new program was exactly the catalyst we needed, first to launch the internationalization of the School, and then to drive it.

We faced countless challenges in implementing the IMBA. But each time we took steps to meet a major challenge, we in effect laid the groundwork for creating what we now refer to as "Canada's Global Business School™".

The challenges we faced? You know them well.

To increase IB offerings. To expand teaching and research alliances. To extend our network of academic partnerships with leading international business schools. And to increase our global corporate alliances.

We learned important lessons along the way. From the start, we felt we understood the value of partners and partnering. But I must say, the more we internationalized, the more we came to appreciate just how essential quality partnerships are to success in the global arena.

And so, those many years ago, the IMBA program got us started. And for all that time, I've been Dean. In fact, you know, I've been Dean so long that I'm even catching up to Donald Jacobs, the Kellogg School's fabled "Dean of Deans".

It takes time to transform an organization. And having such a long term in office is another of the blessings I've enjoyed in my career.

Recently, one of my colleagues paid me a compliment. He said that over the years, I've been able to monitor the world's currents, and sail with those that best propelled Schulich towards its global goals.

I might add that to sustain this forward momentum, I've had to be a dreamer and an optimist. I've repeatedly set goals for the School that appeared to be just *beyond* reach. And I've encouraged people to strive for them. But then, when the goals seemed finally to be just *within* reach, I've raised the bar higher. As a result, globalization has been "a moving target" at Schulich.

The School has certainly been fortunate. Its location, for example, is a decided asset. Toronto is one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities, and Canada one of its most multicultural nations.

As well, our institutional parent, York University, is young, innovative and highly diverse. President Lorna Marsden and members of her executive team have always stood behind us. The fact that the University's Academic Vice-President, Sheila Embleton, is here this evening is typical of York's support.

Throughout my many years at Schulich, I have had the very best of professional colleagues. I am very proud that one of our faculty members was awarded the Richard N. Farmer Dissertation Award here today and that, as joint authors, another faculty member and one of our doctoral students were nominees for this year's AIB Conference Best Paper Award.

Two final points before I conclude. Both underline the importance of fund-raising for a contemporary Canadian business school.

In Canada, higher education has generally been funded by the public sector. And unfortunately, the country has not had a strong tradition of private-sector giving to universities. That is why the appearance of Seymour Schulich on our horizon was so important. Seymour's major gifts accelerated our drive to globalize.

Over the past 15 years, generous financial support from individuals like Seymour and from corporations has launched virtually all the School's cutting-edge programs. As well, private-sector donations have recently made possible the construction of our new home — a 335,000-square foot state-of-the-art complex.

So this, in a nutshell, is the Schulich story to date. We're proud of what we've accomplished. But we don't intend to rest on our laurels. Not just yet.

AIB Members, your recognition of my role as chief navigator on the Schulich School's global voyage will be the "wind in my sails" for many years to come.

I thank you sincerely for this most recent blessing.