The history of ideas, and to some extent institutions, in certain areas of economics and business is much in vogue of late. The 1997 special issue of *Canadian Business Economics* on the history of business economics in Canada and the extensive on-going work on intellectual and institutional histories of both marketing and accounting (see Jones 1987 and Richardson 1989) are cases in point.

Part of this activity has included efforts to record the histories of several major Canadian academic institutions who have contributed to the larger history of ideas. One can cite, among others, Malcolm Urquhart (1996) on the early history of the Economics Department at Queen's and B. Austin's (1999) work on early business education at places such as Toronto and McGill.

It is possible to speculate why such an outpouring of histories is taking place at this particular time. Likely candidates for explanation would no doubt include the changing face of business and economics, which suggests the dawning of a new age and requires that the old be chronicled before it is forgotten; a generation of soon-to-retire professors who wish to have their efforts over the past thirty or more years documented; or perhaps a certain "millennium factor" at work. For whichever of these reasons, and some of them definitely apply, it would have been surprising if the idea of writing a history of business education at Queen's had not surfaced!

But there are also more localized reasons for undertaking such a history at this time – most notably a desire to observe the eightieth anniversary of the establishment of the first degree program in business at the university (the B. Com in 1919), the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of an MBA program (in 1960), the twentieth anniversary of the start of the Ph.D (in 1978), and, the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of a separate university faculty specializing in business studies (the School of Business in 1963). (Calling this faculty a "school" has led to a certain amount of confusion over the years because at Queen's separate faculties are usually referred to as such, e.g., the Faculty of Law. It was, however, and remains the most appropriate choice as almost all business faculties refer to themselves as schools, e.g., the Harvard Business School, the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago, the Univer-
At a time of so many anniversaries, it is as tempting to look back as it is necessary to look ahead.

Mindful of all this we have taken up the challenge. Fortunately, at least for the early years, it was possible to piggyback on the excellent work of Urquhart and B. Jones and P. McLean, as well as some early histories, most notably that by R.G.H. Smails (1949). We were also particularly helped in this respect by H. Neatby’s (1978) and F. Gibson’s (1983) general histories of the university, and to a somewhat lesser extent by A.A. Travill’s (1979) history of the Medical Faculty at Queen’s and A. Richardson’s (1992) history of Engineering at the university. While it was necessary to integrate these various sources, the story is at least reasonably well-known.

But Urquhart in particular ends his narrative on business studies as part of the history of economic studies more or less at the establishment of a separate faculty in 1963. It was therefore necessary to go it alone from that point, updating the record through the usual historian’s tool chest of methods, which includes archival research, selected oral histories from a series of existing and former colleagues, and the like. In so doing one becomes indebted to many people. In our case this includes the people at Queen’s Archives, particularly Paul Banfield, the many of our present and former colleagues and students who agreed to talk with us, our research assistant Sharon Miklas for her dogged pursuit of requested facts and figures, as well as Dean Margot Northey and the D.I. MacLeod Foundation, who provided early funds to support the work. Karey Barr, Lisa Rodrigues, and Julie Sulley did all the typing, for which they are to be pitied and for which we are most grateful. Our gratitude also extends to Don Akenson, Joan McGilvray, and others at McGill-Queen’s University Press who have made this a much better book than it was when it started out. And finally, of course, we wish to thank the MBA class of 1974 whose twenty-fifth reunion gift made the publication possible.

We trust you will enjoy the read. In many ways, and without wanting to prejudge the issue, if there is one theme which stands out, it is the story of “the little school that could.” A collection of people established a certain presence in business education in Canada almost from its beginning and others have kept this presence, despite the School’s being small in size and well away from the commercial centres of Canada – to say nothing of the United States, with whose schools of business they have competed for faculty, students, and reputation. This has been, and remains, no mean feat.

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