

Dean chairs AACSB International

Pamplin College Dean Richard E. Sorensen was named chair of the board of directors of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International in July. AACSB International is a nonprofit corporation that seeks to promote and improve higher education in business administration and management. Organized in 1916, it is the premier agency for accrediting bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs in business administration and accounting.

Sorensen has a long record of service to the association, beginning in 1982 as a member of its government relations committee. He has also served on committees for standards, government relations, and initial, business, and continuing accreditation. As chair of the business accreditation committee, he led efforts to accredit more than 30 non-U.S. business programs.

In a message to AACSB International members, Sorensen said the organization aims to be a "thought leader" for business education worldwide. During the past three years, he said, AACSB International has made an extensive commitment to project its message on key issues and expand its advocacy role. It has spoken out in support of members' interests and to influence public perceptions on key management education issues.

AACSB's accreditation service, based

on an established peer review process, has long enhanced the quality of collegiate business education, Sorensen said. Over the years, it has expanded services to include accrediting professional development programs. Business schools around the world, he said, benefit from high quality research data through reports and surveys, and other member services.

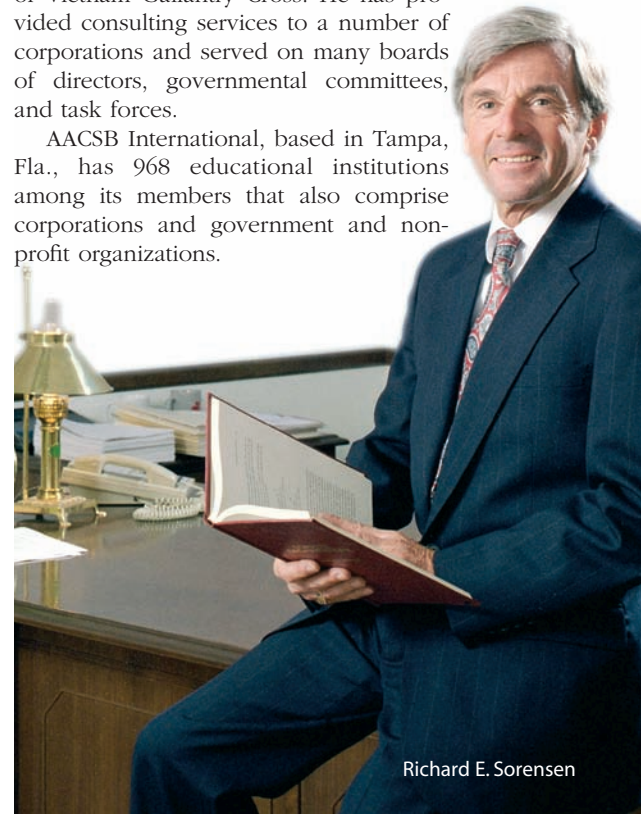
"While we will never lose sight of our core competency—accreditation—we will expand our reach by launching a more robust public communications program. The goal is to let a wider audience know about our work, our successes, our advocacy positions, and how business education contributes to the betterment of society as a whole."

A native of Staten Island, N.Y., Sorensen received a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute (now Polytechnic University) and an MBA and a Ph.D. in management from New York University's Stern Graduate School of Business. Since July 1982, he has served as dean of the Pamplin College. His achievements include a \$70 million fund-raising program and a comprehensive strategic planning effort.

Sorensen was dean of the John Walker College of Business at Appalachian State University for nine years before he joined

Virginia Tech. He served as an airborne-ranger qualified officer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vietnam, where he received the Bronze Star and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross. He has provided consulting services to a number of corporations and served on many boards of directors, governmental committees, and task forces.

AACSB International, based in Tampa, Fla., has 968 educational institutions among its members that also comprise corporations and government and nonprofit organizations.



Richard E. Sorensen

Look who's talking



Mary Matalin



James Carville



Alfred Defago



David L. Calhoun



Randy H. Thurman



Marta Brito Perez

James Carville and Mary Matalin, perhaps America's best known politically polarized couple, presented, "All's Fair: Love, War, and Politics," for the Cutchins Distinguished Lecture last March. The lecture is sponsored by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Rice Center for Leader Development, which is based in the college. The center aims to educate students about leadership and prepare them to be leaders of integrity and ability. The center is named in honor of W. Thomas Rice (CE '34), a retired railroad industry executive and former rector of the board of visitors. The Cutchins Distinguished

Lecture series is named for the late Clifford A. Cutchins III (ACCT '44), a former bank chairman and rector of the board of visitors.

Former Swiss ambassador to the United States **Alfred Defago** discussed the difficult partnership between the United States and Europe. His talk last spring was part of the college's International Business and Culture guest lecture series.

The college hosted three Wachovia Distinguished Speakers last spring: GE vice chairman **David L. Calhoun** (ACCT '79), spoke on "Leadership in Today's Global Business Environment;" **Randy H.**

Thurman (ECON '71), chairman, president, and CEO of VIASYS Healthcare Inc., addressed "What Fighter Pilots and Entrepreneurs Have in Common;" and **Marta Brito Pérez**, associate director for human capital leadership and merit system accountability in the federal Office of Personnel Management, who discussed "Working for America: Diversity Matters."

The Wachovia lecture series is funded by a grant from Wachovia Bank.