EDITORIAL

Letter from the Editor

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Editor-in-Chief

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It is a very special honor for me to announce that the recipients of the 2004 Palgrave Macmillan Journal of International Business Studies Decade Award are Professors Ben M Oviatt and Patricia P McDougall for their paper *Toward a Theory of International New Ventures*, and to present each one of them with a leather-bound memorial volume honoring and celebrating their recognition and a \$1000.00 award.

Beginning with the 2003 JIBS Decade Award, a major initiative was undertaken to greatly elevate the significance and visibility of the accomplishments that the JIBS Decade award represents within the Academy of International Business. From its inception in 1997, an explicit goal of the JIBS Decade Award was to signal the importance of the reciprocal relationship between international business studies and the social sciences that are central to international business scholarship. The revised selection criteria place special emphasis on assessing the influence of the research in both international business and disciplinary journals.

To further signal the importance of the award, the presentation was featured in a plenary session during the annual meeting of the 2004 Academy of International Business Stockholm, Sweden. The session on Sunday, July 10, showcased two commentary presentations by Professors Shaker A Zahra and Erkkö Autio on the significance of the 2004 Palgrave Macmillan JIBS Decade Award paper. The presentation of a retrospective essay by Professors Oviatt and McDougall followed the commentaries. Both the retrospective essay and the commentaries are published in this issue of the *Journal of Business Studies*. To top off this special event, the JIBS Decade Award plenary session was followed by the JIBS – Palgrave reception honoring the 2004 Palgrave Macmillan JIBS Decade Award recipients and providing an opportunity for individuals to personally congratulate and interact with them.

In closing, I wish to express my thanks and deep appreciation to the AIB Executive Board for their unwavering support, to Palgrave Macmillan Publishing for their financial support of this signal event and for their outstanding performance as publishers of JIBS. Last but not least, I wish to thank the 2004 JIBS Decade Award selection committee: Professors Lorraine Eden, Farok Contractor and the chair of the committee Alain Verbeke. Their efforts and due diligence establish the integrity of the JIBS Decade Award.