Stetson University’s annual Gender Issues in Business Day focuses on family business

POSTED: 04-06-2000

Gender dynamics in family businesses is the focus of Stetson University's annual Gender Issues in Business Day beginning at 1 p.m. April 11 with a keynote address by Jill Jinks. The Stetson alumna is president of Insurance House Holdings Inc., which owns and manages Southern General Insurance Group and Southern General Underwriters Insurance Company, of which Jinks is also president.

Jinks will speak at Stetson’s Lynn Business Center lobby, 345 N. Woodland Blvd., from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. The public is invited to hear the free address, as well as the afternoon small-group discussions and evening panel discussion that will follow.

Jinks is a cum laude graduate in finance from Stetson University and also holds a master of business administration degree from New York University, New York City, and a master of science degree in computer information systems from Georgia State University, Atlanta. Jinks, who succeeded her father as president of The Insurance House Inc., is a member of Stetson's Family Business Center Board of Advisors. She is a board trustee for the Georgia State University Educational Foundation and a director of the Derek Hughes/NAPSLO Educational Foundation.

"Gender Dynamics in Family Business Leadership" was chosen as the theme of this year’s event, sponsored by Stetson’s School of Business Administration and the school’s Family Business Center, because of the increasing trend for family businesses to consider a woman successor to take over the business, as well as the fact that approximately a third of Stetson’s students come from families that own businesses.

Now in its seventh year, the conference will continue with small-group discussions centering around a case involving a real company, Precista Tools, in which a son who had little interest in his father’s company was chosen to succeed his father over a daughter who had dedicated herself to the family business for years. The discussions will take place from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in rooms 100, 101, and 105 of the Lynn Business Center. Groups will include students, faculty, representatives of family businesses and experts in the field.

Back in the Lynn Center lobby at 6 p.m., consideration of the Precista Tools case will continue with a panel discussion facilitated by Carmen Bianchi, a nationally known family business expert. Bianchi has been a family business consultant for the past nine years. She is the founder of the University of Texas at El Paso Family Business Forum and was the executive director of the Forum. Bianchi has relocated to the Western New York area and is the founder and a principal of Carmal & Associates, a consulting firm in family business.

Bianchi is an expert in family systems and the relationship between family, business ownership, and the professional roles within a family firm. She was elected to the board of directors of the Family Firm Institute, the premier organization in the United States for professionals specializing in family business. She has been invited by numerous national and international organizations to speak on family business issues. At the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Conference in February, Carmal & Associates was awarded "The Best Workshop Award in Family Business." She is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso in business administration and is currently completing a master’s degree.

Individuals who would like to participate in the afternoon or evening discussions of the case are asked to read the case beforehand on the Family Business Center Web site at http://www.stetson.edu/departments/family/detailed.htm

For more information, contact Dr. Greg McCann, director of Stetson’s Family Business Center, at 904-822-7425.