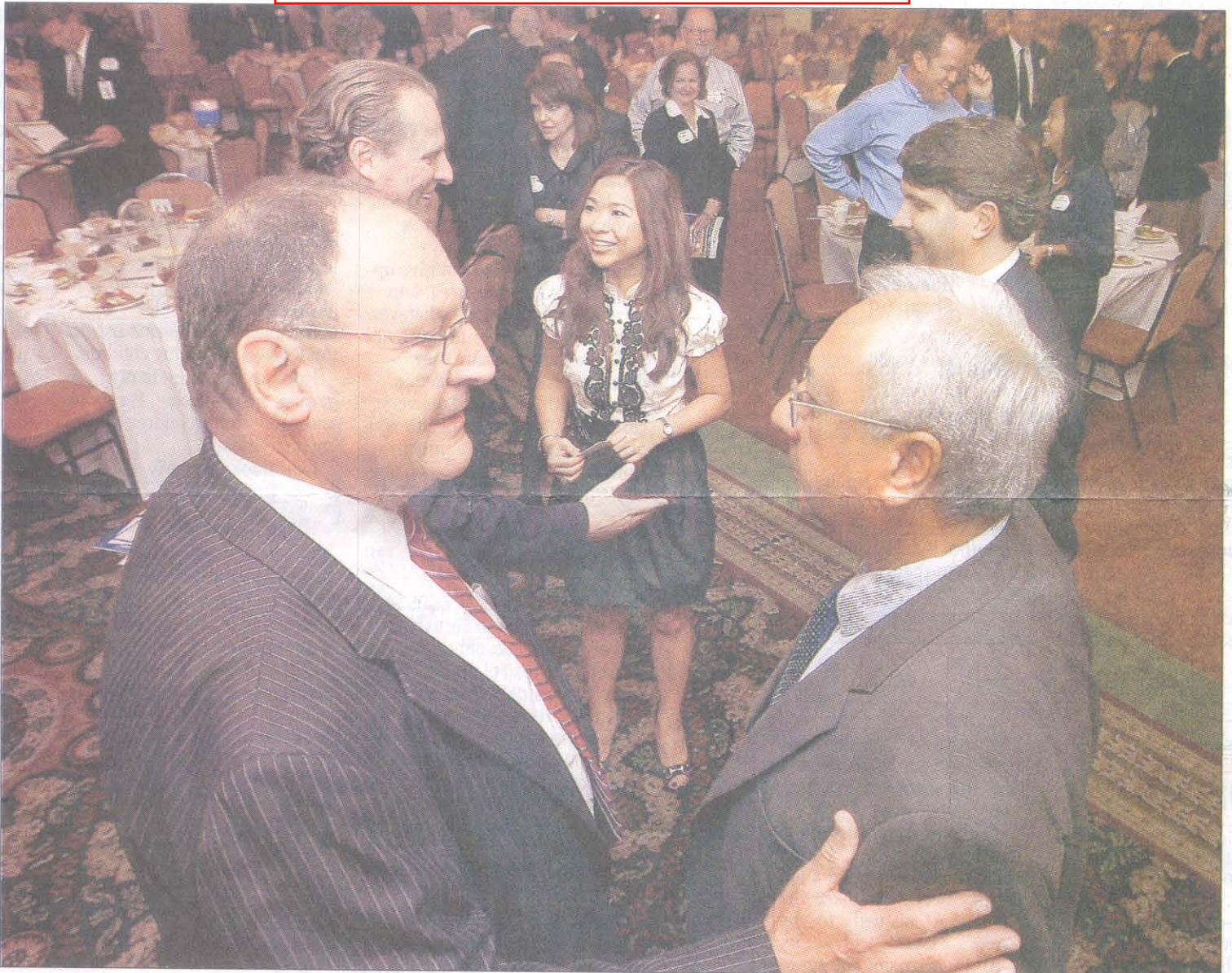


# City's contributors

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Dave Darnell/The Commercial Appeal

Ben Watkins (left), winner of the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis, chats with Dr. Rajiv Grover, dean of the school, after the awards presentation on Wednesday. Other winners were Joseph DeVivo (back, left), distinguished friend of the college; Chris Chu, outstanding young alumna; and Gary Wunderlich, entrepreneur of the year.

## Fogelman College at U of M recognizes 4 for entrepreneurship

By JAMES DOWD

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Heralded for carrying on the rich tradition of Memphis entrepreneurship, four area business leaders were recognized on Wednesday for their continuing efforts to build up and give back to the community.

Chris Chu of EVS and Ben Watkins of Watkins Uiberall were recognized as outstanding alumni of the University of Memphis. Gary Wunderlich of Wunderlich Securities received the entrepreneur of the year award and Joseph DeVivo of was named a distinguished friend of the college.

The awards were presented at the 17th annual Fogelman College of Business and

### FOGELMAN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS 2009 HONOREES

**Alumnus of the Year:** Ben Watkins, member of Watkins Uiberall

**Young Alumna:** Chris Chu, co-founder of EVS Corp.

**Entrepreneur of the Year:** Gary Wunderlich, CEO of Wunderlich Securities

**Distinguished Friend of the College:** Joseph DeVivo, president of Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics

Economics Alumni Day luncheon, which was held at the U of M.

Keynote speaker B. Lane Carrick, chairman and CEO of Sovereign Wealth Management and chairman of Triumph

Bank, touted the city's history of entrepreneurship by citing such innovators as Clarence Saunders, Kemmons Wilson and Frederick W. Smith.

"There's not a more entrepreneurial community in the world than Memphis, Tennessee," Carrick said. "The men and women here don't just start companies, they start industries, from Piggly Wiggly to Holiday Inn to FedEx. We have an obligation to support them and help them grow their businesses.

"Your investment here today is an ongoing investment in the University of Memphis and may be one of the most important to the future of Memphis."

And one of the best ways to ensure maximum return on that investment is by

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# LEADERS

supporting the school's business programs, said Rajiv Grover, dean of the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the U of M. Creating a culture of excellence at the university and strengthening ties to the business community will produce dividends for generations.

"We're attracting high-quality students and we're the envy of schools such as Harvard, but we need to do more to keep them here after they graduate," Grover said. "We need the entire community behind us to help tell the story of how great it is to live in Memphis. We want to help students set up companies in Memphis and stay in Memphis."

The university has made great strides, Grover said, by redesigning its business

programs and engaging area companies in an aggressive bid to produce future CEOs.

Degree programs such as the Customer-Driven MBA, Entrepreneurship MBA and International MBA are generating greater interest in the school and attracting diverse applicants from across the globe.

That's worth getting excited about, said Roby Williams, president of the Black Business Association of Memphis.

"We must inspire each other to spread the word about how wonderful it is to live and work in Memphis," Williams said. "These programs help us to remind ourselves of that and to send that message to the rest of the world. We're not a city that's looking backward, we're focused on the future."

For more information on the Fogelman College of Business and Economics, visit online at [memphis.edu/fcbe](http://memphis.edu/fcbe).

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