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NEWS FROM CAMPUS

John Quelch to leave LBS

John Quelch, dean of London Business School, is to step down from his post at the end of the academic year.

The move has taken the school – number eight in the world according to the Financial Times MBA 2000 rankings – by surprise. Prof Quelch joined the school less than three years ago and would have been expected to be there for at least five years.

A spokesperson for LBS said that Prof Quelch was leaving for personal reasons. It is thought that he and his American-born wife Joyce will return to their Boston home in July, but it is not known what position Prof Quelch will take up.

Prof Quelch, 49, joined LBS as dean on July 1 1998 from Harvard Business School, where he was head of marketing. Although British by birth, he has worked mainly in the US. He beat three internal candidates for the job at LBS: David Currie (Lord Currie of Marylebone), who is now the new dean at City University Business School; Tom Robertson, who subsequently became dean of Emory University's Goizueta Business School, Georgia; and Michael Earl, who is professor of information management at the school.

Since taking on the role Prof Quelch has proved himself to be a mover and a shaker at the school. He was a driving force behind LBS's decision last May to

University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management; and the University of Michigan business school at Ann Arbor.

Prof Quelch would be well placed to become dean of any of these schools. LBS: www.london.edu

Duke pioneers web classes

For the first time in its history, Duke University is opening its doors to non-Duke students and offering a live webcast of an MBA course.

On January 22, from a classroom at its Fuqua School of Business, North Carolina, the school will broadcast the first in a 12-session course on global asset allocation and stock selection. Campbell Harvey, whose initiative it was and who will teach the course, stresses that the course is a real MBA elective, not "a watered-down version but a full course, a full 24 hours of material".

Prof Harvey says the webcast course will contact parts of the market that would otherwise be unreachable.

"I am catering to a significant part of the market, people who cannot afford to take two years to drop everything for some specialised knowledge they really want. It is highly specialised training without all the infrastructure."

The course, he adds, will also strengthen links with the school's alumni anxious

to update their knowledge. The sessions will be delivered via Digital Island. "You are going to see exactly what is happening in the class. I think it could be much more exciting for the students watching the webcast than a scripted videotape."

Prof Harvey believes Duke's pioneering move will have significant implications for the MBA model. "In the future people who are enrolled in one school may be able to diversify and tap into the Duke web. There is real potential here. I am serving a niche of the market that has not been served before."

This year the virtual students watching around the world will not be able to take part in any discussions but in the future Prof Harvey envisages a facility to field e-mail questions live.

The course will also be available in archive form for virtual students unable to view the live broadcast.

Last year the Fuqua school spun off its client-based executive education department into a profit-making company, with the aim of delivering high-quality executive education to every layer of management in the world's largest corporations. The new company, Duke Corporate Education, hopes that within 10 years it will have an annual revenue of \$10bn (£6.7bn). Fuqua: www.fuqua.duke.edu

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