

*“In a time of turbulence and change, it is more true than ever that knowledge is power; for only by true understanding and steadfast judgment are we able to master the challenge of history.”*

(John F. Kennedy, 35<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S., 1962)

### **Introduction**

Turbulence may be defined as “a state of instability and disorder.” Our College of Business strives to produce graduates whose understanding and judgment allow them to seize opportunities brought by turbulent times.

In this forum, we focus on national and regional aspects of today’s turbulent times. Our first speaker, Dr. Rajeev Dhawan, will address the current storm of national economic forces and how it is likely to impact our nation and area. Our second speaker, Mr. Michael Ricks, will speak turbulence of another sort altogether-- the effects of the major hurricanes on the economic development and future of our region.

Thank you for joining us in this year’s forum. We believe that you will find the presentations particularly relevant and enlightening in these most turbulent times.



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## **The Forty-Second Annual**

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# J. Walter Porter *Forum*

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Friday, October 10, 2008

## *Turbulent Times*

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*Sponsored by the College of Business and made possible by the endowment established by the family and friends of the late J. Walter Porter in recognition of his interest in improving the image of business as a career field for college students and of his concern for moral and ethical standards as expressed in his philosophy of business. The forum is an effort to translate the textbook into practice by bringing capable, successful business executives to the campus to speak on selected topics in their area of expertise.*

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*College of Business  
Northwestern State University  
Natchitoches, Louisiana*

***Schedule of Events***  
***2008 J. Walter Porter Forum***

*Russell Hall, Room 107*

**8:15 a.m.**

**Dr. Randall Webb**

***Welcome***

President  
Northwestern State University

**8:25 a.m.**

**Dr. Jerry L. Wall**

***Introduction***

Dean  
College of Business  
Northwestern State University

**8:30 a.m.**

**Dr. Rajeev Dhawan**

***“Expectations for 2010 & Beyond”***

Director  
Economic Forecasting Center  
Georgia State University

**10:00 a.m.**

Networking Break

**10:30 a.m.**

**Mr. Michael Ricks**

District Director  
Small Business Administration of Louisiana

**12 Noon**

*The Natchitoches Room*

**Luncheon**

(Guests, Speakers, Faculty, Dean’s Advisory  
Board Members, and COB Seniors)



**J. Walter Porter**  
**(1900-1965)**

A native of Kaufman County, Texas, Mr. Porter graduated from Texas A&M, class of 1922, and took a Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering at Harvard in 1924. In 1931, he helped organize the Gifford-Hill Pipe Company in Grand Prairie, Texas. Mr. Porter saw the need to sell business to the college and to bridge the gap between the college campus and industry. Mr. Porter felt that many people in the academic, professional, governmental, and even in the business world, fail to understand the workings of the competitive system and the motivation force behind it. He was determined to contribute to a better understanding of that system among his own employees, associates, and where he could, on college campuses. His death came on the eve of a scheduled three-day lecture program at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. The J. Walter Porter Forum is a continuation of that effort.

This year’s speakers are...

***Dr. Rajeev Dhawan***

Dhawan is Director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University where he develops forecasts for the U.S., Southeast regional, and local metro Atlanta economies. He has received several awards for his forecasting accuracy. Dhawan appears regularly in the local and national media, is a popular speaker, regularly briefs the boards of private companies and serves on the Georgia Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors. He holds a Bachelor’s from St. Stephen’s College in India, a Masters from the Delhi School of Economics, and a Doctorate from the University of California at Los Angeles.

***Mr. Michael Ricks***

Ricks is the District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in Louisiana. As District Director, he is responsible for the management and delivery of SBA programs, services and resources. Prior to his appointment as District Director for Louisiana, Mr. Ricks served as District Director in Alabama for 4 years. Prior to his appointment with the Small Business Administration, Mr. Ricks served as Program Manager for Advanced Technology and Production Readiness projects for the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. In addition, Mr. Ricks served as a Defense Acquisition Officer in early program concept development for the Army Infantry Center at Ft. Benning, GA.