It’s natural, when we think about the success of our programs, to look at how we stack up against others. So, it’s a pleasure to share some excellent news in that regard about our School of Management (SOM).

As Dean Hasan Pirkul began his eleventh academic year at The University of Texas at Dallas, the SOM was ranked 23rd worldwide in research productivity by the Top One Hundred Business Schools Research Rankings™. In the same listings, the SOM is ranked 9th worldwide in the last three years in research productivity in information systems, marketing, operations management, management science, and operations research. The School of Management has distinguished itself in other rankings as well:

- *Financial Times* tagged the UT Dallas Executive MBA program 48th in the world and 22nd in the U.S.
- *U.S. News and World Report* ranks the UT Dallas Management Information Systems program 24th in the nation (tied with Harvard University) and 16th among such programs at public colleges and universities.
- *U.S. News and World Report* ranks the UT Dallas Cohort MBA program among the top 54 fulltime MBA programs in the nation and among the top 25 at public colleges and universities.
- The three online MBA programs are ranked by *Financial Times* among the top 25 distance learning MBA programs in the world.

With the emphasis that external raters put on research, you might think our faculty spend all their time crunching numbers and writing up their results. But it’s an equal pleasure to report that the quality of the everyday interactions among faculty and students recently lead to SOM’s Executive MBA program winning the prestigious PRISM Award of the International Coaching Federation. The award particularly recognized this program’s practice of assigning each student a one-on-one coach as a leadership strategy. Each student receives customized plans analyzing his or her individual strengths and weaknesses.

While we’re proud of being ranked with institutions like Harvard, what may be more significant is our own ability to take a simple idea—coaching—and create a new approach that not only gains endorsement in the marketplace of new concepts, but also (and more importantly) serves our students well. At UT Dallas we go beyond meeting the current standards for excellence. We’re defining them for the future.