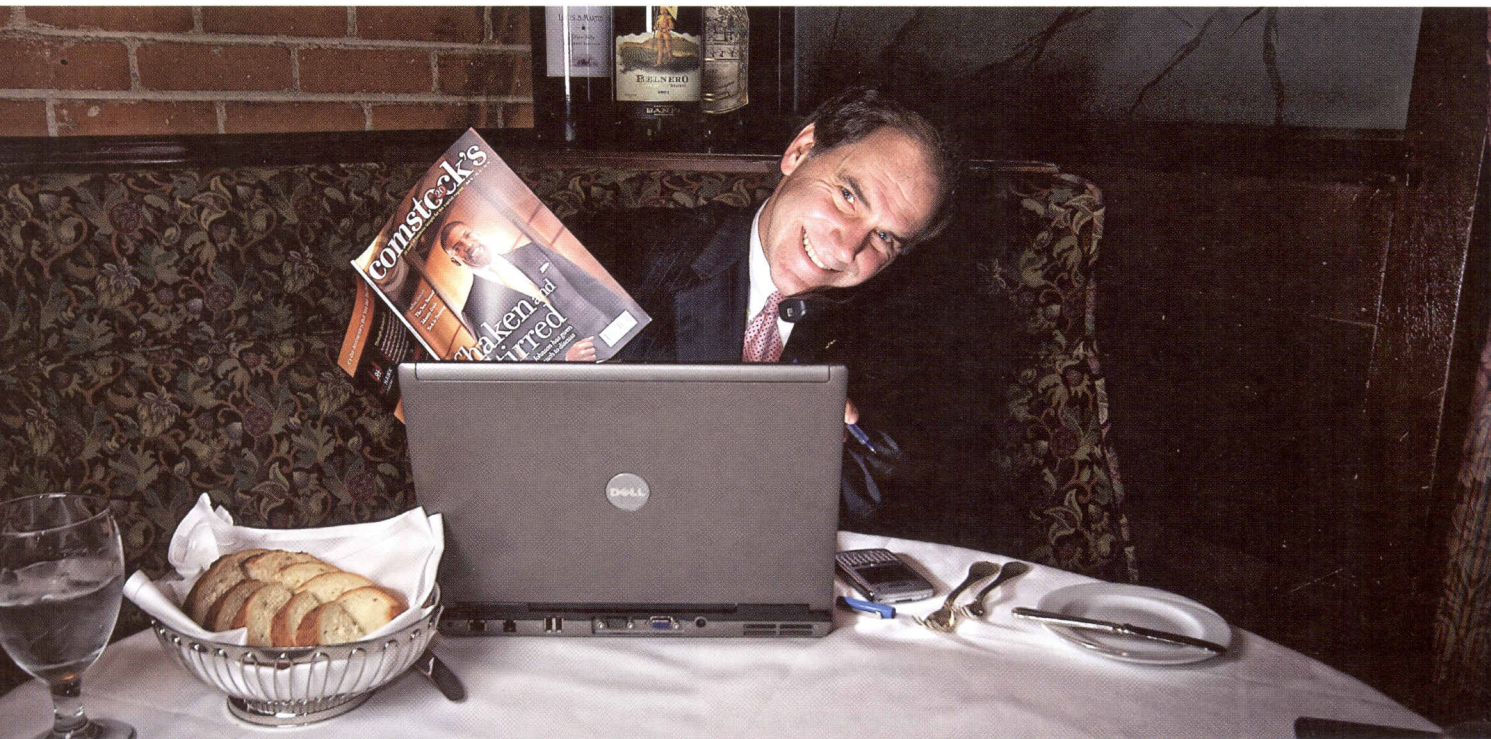


tobey oxholm

BY DOUGLAS CURLEY



According to Carl “Tobey” Oxholm III, the current state of the global economy is an opportunity. Those who keep their heads down and simply try to hold on will be left behind, he says. That’s why he enjoys what he’s doing at the Drexel University Graduate Studies Center on Capitol Mall.

“Whether or not the economy rebounds, businesses and individuals in the know are doing everything they can to position themselves to succeed. To do anything else would be ludicrous,” Oxholm says. “With the economy really pushing people, we currently have 150 students. On average, these people are 30 to 35 years old. They have elderly parents, children and home obligations. At work, they have lost colleagues due to layoffs. So they’re working harder, longer and in many cases, for less money. And they don’t even know if they’re going to have jobs two years from now.”

But in spite of these challenging circumstances, these students have plopped down \$30,000 and made a commitment to a two-year Drexel graduate program. Why?

“It takes some guts,” Oxholm says. “But for a lot of these people they look up, and they see a ceiling. They want to

get to the next level in their businesses. They want to be in the ranks of the senior managers. They want to attain the substantive knowledge, technical and leadership skills that will enable them to reach the next level in their careers.”

In addition to repositioning for the looming recovery, Oxholm says there’s going to be a massive changing of guard in the U.S. work force that businesses and individuals should also prepare for.

“Because the boomers are such a large population, in five years there’s going to be a huge succession taking place. It’s going to be an amazing opportunity for people who are ready to take those positions. It’s already hitting government. It’s beginning to hit nonprofits. It will hit the private sector very soon.”

Oxholm says area business should do everything they can to support their employees’ graduate education efforts.

“These are exciting young professionals,” he says. “They’re going after something great and taking back to their office an exciting, optimistic attitude. You can be optimistic or pessimistic. I think being optimistic and enjoying what you do is a lot more fun. It’s a much better business plan too.” ©

- **Occupation:** Oxholm is senior vice president and dean of Drexel University, Sacramento Center for Graduate Studies. The 118-year-old Philadelphia-based university opened the Sacramento center last January. The center now offers eight master’s programs and one doctorate. Oxholm has been a senior vice president with Drexel since 2001.

- **Personal:** Oxholm, 56, lives in midtown Sacramento with his wife, Kim. A Philadelphia boy, he and his wife had lived in the northeast their entire lives. “The best part about Sacramento is that my wife really likes it here. Living in midtown is a riot. The people are great. The shopkeepers and lifestyle is great. The diversity is wonderful,” he says.

- **Hobbies:** “We love to bike, and we love the river. First thing we did when we moved here was to go to REI and buy new bikes. From midtown we bike to Sacramento State to jump on the American River Bike Trail. Then we ride to Folsom and back. It’s a blast.”

- **Lunch:** “At 56, I find if you do anything to excess it shows immediately. So I eat a lot of salads for lunch.” At The Firehouse Restaurant in Old Sacramento, Oxholm enjoys the hearts of romaine Caesar salad with grilled chicken, house-made dressing, anchovies and shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano.