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Department Adds SAP into the OM&IS Curriculum

Staring this summer, the College of Business at NIU is officially a member of the SAP University Alliance Program after receiving an approval from NIU’s legal counsel. SAP is the dominate player in the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software market. SAP allows all major business processes to be integrated and standardized. According to a recent estimate in Business Management, 70% of Forbes 500 companies run their business with the help of SAP. Joining the SAP University Alliance will permit our faculty to use SAP software and to have access to curricular materials of SAP. The OM&IS Department feels strongly that the move to SAP can provide big benefits for our students. A total of 10 department faculty attended a 3-day SAP training workshop on July 11-13. The OM&IS Department will add SAP into the curriculum beginning in spring of 2012. “SAP fits nicely with the department theme – run business better by improving processes and using technology,” says Department Chair Chang Liu. He adds, “By adding SAP into our curriculum, we could offer better job opportunities for our students and provide companies with those talents who know how to use technology to improve business processes.”

OM&IS Open House

The fall 2011 OM&IS Open House is scheduled on Wednesday, October 12 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Barsema Hall 328. Our faculty and students would love to talk to you to help you learn more about the OM&IS programs. We hope to see you at the Open House. Feel free to contact Steven Kispert, Academic Advisor and Internship Coordinator, at 815-753-6372 or skispert@niu.edu if you are interested in being an OM&IS major. Refreshments and door prizes will be available during the Open House.

OM&IS Faculty and Staff
(Left to right) Dr. Gerry Aase, Mrs. Kelly Stewart, Dr. Chuck Downing, Mr. Steve Kispert, Drs. Rich Born & Brian Mackie

Stay Connected

We Want to Hear from You!

Please keep us informed with both your latest contact information as well as your professional accomplishments. The department has established OM&IS Alumni Group on LinkedIn. To join, search for “NIU OM&IS Alumni” at www.linkedin.com.
Darrell Messer  
**Distinguished OM&IS Alumnus**

The OM&IS Department presented the 2011 Outstanding Alumni Award to Darrell Messer in recognition of his many professional achievements and his outstanding service to the department. Messer graduated from NIU in May 1997 with a B.S. in OM&IS with an emphasis in logistics. He started his career immediately after graduation as an Inventory Planner in the Paint & Sundries Department for True Value Company, which was then known as Cotter & Co.

In 2002, he was promoted to a Senior Supply Chain Analyst. In 2003, he was promoted to the Manager of Projects and Training for the Merchandise Supply Chain Department at True Value. In 2004, he moved up to become the Manager of Supply Chain Business Systems Support. Currently, Messer serves as Director of Inventory Planning for the Paint/Plumbing/Electrical departments. He is responsible for providing strategic leadership to the inventory management team to achieve industry-leading customer service levels while optimizing the management of inventory assets. In addition to these responsibilities, Messer helped create and develop the college recruiting program at True Value where until recently he was the team lead for NIU. During his tenure at True Value, Messer was part of four teams that have been the recipient of four True Value President’s Awards.

Messer has served the NIU College of Business and the department in numerous ways, including as a member of the OM&IS Executive Advisory Council, guest speaker in the UBUS 310 and OM&IS 498 classes, and sponsor of the Experimental Learning Center (ELC)’s True Value project. He is an important partner and recruiter for the department, sharing his time, energy, knowledge and experience with our students, spreading the word about our programs, and helping the OM&IS department receive the first True Value Scholarship in 2011.

OM&IS Student Wins 2010 NIU Internships/Co-Op Student of the Year Bronze Award

John Gianatasio was chosen as the recipient of the NIU Internship/Co-Op Bronze-level Student of the Year for 2010. John beat out 11 other students and was selected as the recipient of this award for previously earning the September 2010 Internship/Co-Op of the month. He spent the summer of 2010 interning for Kraft Foods in the Information Systems Department working on various projects and gaining real world experience. John Popp, Associate Director IS Service Delivery at Kraft Foods, speaks highly of John saying, “During his assignment, John demonstrated strengths in priority setting, organizing, and developing peer and management relationships. In a short period, he delivered significant results while forging good working relationships with his key client areas.”
New Faculty

Assistant Professor Jung Young Lee received her Ph.D. in operations management from Michigan State University and an M.M.E in management engineering from KAIST Graduate School of Business, Seoul, Korea. Lee will teach operations management topics at both undergraduate and graduate levels at NIU. Her research interests include product and process innovation, information sharing quality, knowledge management, and supply chain integration. A member of Decision Sciences Institute and Production & Operation Management Society, Lee is the co-author of the articles appearing in top tier scholarly journals including the International Journal of Production Research and Production and Operations Management Journal.

Visiting Assistant Professor Andrew Setterstrom earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration with an emphasis in management information systems from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He will teach computer information systems, information technology in organizations, advanced networking, and ERP classes for the OM&IS programs. Setterstrom also has an MBA and Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems from Emporia State University. His most recent research work has been published in one of the leading IS scholarly journals - Communications of the Association for Information Systems.

Instructor Brian Bender comes to NIU from Rockford Industrial Welding Supply, Inc., where he served as director of information technology & system development. He also served as adjunct instructor at Judson University. Bender brings considerable professional experience in the areas of IT strategic planning, telecommunications, technology implementation, and business process management. He has an MBA from NIU and a Bachelor of Computer Science (from Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL).

Faculty Global Reach

Faculty Exchange with Bordeaux University, France - Professor Jack T. Marchewka started the new year of 2011 in Bordeaux, France teaching project management to graduate students as part of a joint program between NIU’s MBA program and Bordeaux University’s Master of International Business (MIB). Twenty-Eight graduate students were enrolled in this accelerated course and included students from China, Vietnam, Germany, Brazil, and the U.S.
OM&IS Faculty Make Scholarly Contributions in Academic Journals (2010-2011)


Scholarships Awarded

The OM&IS Department awarded a total of $25,500 scholarships at the Department Award Banquet on April 29, 2011. The generous sponsors of these scholarships and their recipients are:

**Allstate Scholarship**
Sergio Rivera
Joseph Bauer
Alexander Vlakancic
Richard “RJ” Kunde

**Caterpillar Scholarship**
Rolando Lopez
Drew Nielsen
Madan Arora

**I-Test Scholarship**
Mayowa Adejinle

**Jeffrey Burton Lollar Memorial Scholarship**
Joe Rodosta

**Marian E. Millington Scholarship for the Advancement of Women in Information Technology**
Korrey M. Stralka
Aikaterini Makridakis
Kathleen M. Abeil

**Matthew L. Johnson Scholarship**
Steven Sift
Dylan Heinrich

**OM&IS Faculty Scholarship**
Neha Pandhre
Muralidhar Krishnamurthy
Sathish Palaniswami
Matt Simko

**OM&IS Executive Advisory Council Scholarship**
Poonam Maniyar
Farhan Farooqui

**Target Scholarship**
Johnathan Ringgenberg

**True Value Scholarship**
Christopher Bayer
Kumar Mitra

**William and Eileen Breitzke Bryan Hall**

**Young APICS Professional Membership Awards**
Mike O’Donnell
Luke Bujarski
Sarah Fritz

Our sincere thanks go to all those who contribute to scholarship funds. The scholarships are very important and help motivate our students. If you would like to support the department’s scholarship program, contact the OM&IS Chair Chang Liu at 815-753-3021 or cliu@niu.edu.

OM&IS Student Organizations Updates

**APICS**
The Association for Operations Management

NIU APICS Student Chapter has maintained about 30 student members over the year and some 16-18 members who are active in student chapter board meetings and leadership functions. It organizes 3 plant tours each semester to apply classrooms concepts to distribution/factory/logistics/supply chain management. Students toured Lowe’s Regional Distribution Center, Ideal Industries, and True Value Company in spring 2011. In addition, 8 NIU APICS student chapter members participated in the APICS Midwest Case Competition in February 2011. There were more than 20 schools in this competition with approximately 150 students and 200 practitioners. NIU’s APICS team submitted a written case study and gave a 5 minute presentation to place 4th overall in the competition.

**OM&IS SAB**
OM&IS Student Advisory Board

The OM&IS SAB enables students to be involved with the department on a more personal level. The SAB is the “student cabinet” of the department chair and provides important input regarding student and department activities. In the 2010-11 academic year, the SAB performed a number of activities for the department, including promoting the OM&IS programs to students through the OM&IS Open House, planning the Spring Awards Banquet, organizing students to participate in the NIU Executive Club Job Shadow Day event and Microsoft Image Cup competition, nominating a faculty member for the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award, and coordinating educational and social events such as presentations by guest speakers, Meet the Faculty Night, and fundraising.