

OM&IS News

cob.niu.edu/omis OM&IS focuses on running business better by improving processes and using technology.

Millington named honorary alumnus

Chris Millington, a longtime friend of the NIU College of Business, was named the



Chris Millington

OM&IS Honorary Alumnus during the OM&IS department's spring award banquet on April 25, 2014. Chris and his wife Lorraine Millington have made a significant impact on the OM&IS department. Because of the Millington Challenge Fund, the department has established 17 new scholarships for OM&IS students. This generous couple also created another scholarship specifically for women: the Marian Elizabeth Millington Scholarship for the Advancement of Women in Information Technology.

This scholarship has been awarded annually since 2008.

Moreover, in December 2013, Chris and Lorraine Millington created a unique opportunity for all OM&IS alumni, family and friends—a two for one challenge: any new donor has an opportunity to make a donation to the OM&IS department and the Millingtons will donate twice the amount...a 200% return on your investment. For instance, donate \$100 and the Millingtons will donate \$200, making a com-

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Dr. Andrew Setterstrom—certified SAP TERP10 instructor

With over 100,000 firms globally having adopted SAP software solutions, skills relating to SAP products are in high demand. As a member of SAP's University Alliance, the NIU College of Business and its OM&IS department offer a variety of courses to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed to meet this demand. Since 2012, a total of 72 OM&IS undergraduates and MIS graduate students received SAP student recognition awards presented by the SAP University Alliances Program.

The department has successfully implemented SAP in both its undergraduate and graduate curriculum.

In summer 2014, Assistant Professor of MIS Andrew Setterstrom completed TERP10 (Integration of Business Processes in SAP ERP) training workshop. Setterstrom then passed the TERP10 test to become a certified SAP TERP10 instructor. TERP10 is a SAP associate level certification that focuses on how various business processes are performed within the SAP ERP system.

Beginning in summer 2015, NIU's OM&IS department will offer a TERP10 certification exam preparation workshop. The



Dr. Andrew Setterstrom

TERP10 workshop and its subsequent certification is in direct response to the global marketplace demand for SAP skills, with that demand estimated between

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Department Highlights

The **Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MIS)** is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) designated degree program approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

After 27 years of outstanding services at NIU, **Kelly Stewart**, department secretary, retired from the OM&IS department in May 2014.

Dr. Kathleen McFadden received the NIU College of Business Global Research Fellowship award in fall 2013.

Dr. Chang Liu received the NIU College of Business Global Research Fellowship award in spring 2014.

Drs. Yipeng Liu and Nancy Russo received the NIU College of Business Global Research Travel Grants in spring 2014.

Dr. Kathleen McFadden received the Speiser Research Fellowship award in summer 2014.

OM&IS student **Kaylee Heller** was one of the recipients of the 2014 NIU Outstanding Women award.

Fall 2014 OM&IS Open House
Wednesday, October 8
11:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Barsema Hall 344

Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MIS)
informational sessions
Monday, November 3 and
Tuesday, November 4
4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Barsema Hall 315.

Contact Mr. Steven Kispert, Academic Advisor and Internship Coordinator, at 815-753-6372 or skispert@niu.edu if interested in being an OM&IS or MIS major.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

College of Business

Where the Classroom Meets the Business World

Stories from six OM&IS scholarship recipients

Carly Steffen—OM&IS Junior Student

When I was in high school I knew I wanted to do something with computers but I wasn't sure what. Visiting the NIU College of Business helped me decide that I wanted to pursue a degree in Operations Management & Information Systems. I fell in love with Barsema Hall, the professors I met and the atmosphere where everyone is encouraging and wanting to help you succeed. Being the recipient of the Millington Scholarship while I was still a senior in high school has helped move me towards my goal. Not only has it helped with tuition costs but the scholarship showed that people believe in me. It has encouraged me to do more and become more involved in school. I want to encourage others to create scholarships to help other students, to encourage them to come to NIU and the School of Business. It will help with the financial pressure and make the school more appealing to potential students.

Charles Besenhoffer—OM&IS Junior Student

"Success does not come to you, you go to it," were words etched on a framed poster of a lighthouse in my living room. Sometimes, though, the path is not very clear to those who travel it. I found that despite clever wit, ample opportunity, and exercise of diligence that I came up wanting just last year. While my parents were separating, money was not a resource in any abundance, and so I dared to hope for help from the school. It was to my great fortune that I was awarded the Nathan Griffin Memorial Scholarship, which gave me the money I needed to continue my studies. It isn't always a matter of being the smartest person getting a full ride; in fact, I imagine there are many students who just need a helping hand from time to time.

Justin Kuryliw—2010 OM&IS Graduate

The scholarship I received while at NIU had an immediate and lasting impact on both my student and professional career. Immediately, the scholarship that I received provided financial assistance which enabled my active involvement in several student organizations -- time that would have otherwise been spent working part-time. This extra time enabled me to contribute back to NIU as a leader in the College of Business Deans Advisory Board, the OM&IS Student Advisory Board, the Experiential Learning Center, and as a philanthropic leader in non-college of business activities. The leadership experience I gained is irreplaceable and is primarily the reason for my internship and job-placement upon graduating. In addition to the leadership experience I gained, the scholarship opened up several networking opportunities with the scholarship sponsors, which I have remained in contact with since graduating. Three years after graduating, the scholarship continued to pay dividends when I received my dream job offer from Salesforce.com. I was referred by one of the scholarship sponsors, who has since turned into a lifelong

friend. The scholarship I received was life-changing and I am forever grateful for the friends I met, the opportunities that were opened, and the experience I received as a result.

RJ Kunde—2011 OM&IS Graduate

The scholarships awarded to me during my undergraduate career at Northern Illinois University were nothing short of small miracles. For many students including myself, economic hardship was one of the most challenging obstacles faced while attending college. I speak on behalf of many hardworking students who often hold multiple jobs, have children or other serious financial obligations. Had it not been for these scholarships, we may never have had the opportunity to complete our undergraduate studies in a timely, cost effective fashion, or potentially at all. Please consider the impact you can have on the lives of many students as you decide whether to donate to this cause. The importance of these scholarships cannot be overstated, and there are many hard working, involved and selfless students that can immediately benefit from such generosity.

Korrey Stralka—2012 OM&IS Graduate

The Millington Scholarship for the Advancement of Women in Technology provided me with one of my most cherished experiences -- the gift of a great education. As the oldest of 5, my parents were unable to financially support me through college as they would have liked. Scholarships such as the one offered by Mr. Millington provided me the opportunity to attend Northern Illinois University without having to worry about the cost. And the fantastic education I gained as a student in NIU's College of Business prepared me for the career I am in now. Without donors as kind as Mr. Millington, my story would have been very different. I will always be grateful for his generosity.

Matt Carlson—2013 OM&IS Graduate

As a student of the OM&IS department I worked very hard inside and outside of class. The money that I received in scholarships played a large role in my path through NIU, which ultimately led to my successful transition into the business world. Because of the scholarships, I did not have to take out student loans or work during the semester. By having the financial support of generous funds and individuals, I was able to focus the energy after class into extracurricular activities and became the president of the OM&IS Student Advisory Board. Ultimately due to the focus on academics that the scholarships helped to provide, I was able to graduate with a 4.0 GPA and start my career in the very competitive IT world in a development program for future leaders.

Thank you to all who are involved in the OM&IS scholarship program. You have each impacted our students' lives and future in a significant way. If you would like to support the department's scholarship program, contact OM&IS Chair, Dr. Chang Liu at 815-753-3021 or cliu@niu.edu.

NIU Business: Where the Classroom Meets the Business World

Each semester the OM&IS department offers independent study opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Students are guided by a faculty member in these hands-on learning situations. Through research or projects, the students examine specific topics in operations and information management. In spring semester 2014, Dr. Nancy Russo, professor of MIS, coached a team of five students for an IT auditing independent study. This team received support from Dan Vital, 2002 OM&IS graduate, who works in IT Audit & Advisory Services at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. As part of the independent study, the group visited the Blue Cross Blue Shield offices in Chicago on March 21. The students had demos of TeamMate and ACL software, a visit from the VP, and overviews of three types of audits (supplier, identity access management, and disaster recovery/business continuity planning) from audit team members. The group also took an in-depth tour of the NIU data center and interviewed key IT personnel as part of a mock audit. The course culminated with the presentation of the audit test plan and report.



Left to right, John Ilagan, Matt Marra, Niko Tsiagalidis, Dan Vital, Travis Chapman, Yunhua Sun

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bined gift total of \$300 for the department to support its student scholarship program, technology improvements, academic research, and faculty development.

Before his retirement in 2010, Chris served McDonald's Corporation as global Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for 12 years. Chris's global responsibilities included infrastructure operations, strategy, architecture, outsourcing relationships, supplier and vendor management, IT procurement and CORE business application solutions. Chris transformed his organization into a trust-based team focusing on open, honest communications, treating all people with respect and dignity, valuing differences by leveraging the strengths of each individual and creating an environment owned and led by the team. Prior to joining McDonald's, he was vice president and CTO for Kemper Insurance. Presently, Chris founded Top-Down Leadership Consulting, LLC, which focuses on executive coaching, leadership development, IT organizational transformations and outsourcing organizational transitions.

Chris is a member of the OM&IS Executive Advisory Council. He served as an MIS colloquium speaker in 2012.

Scholarship and Award Winners

The OM&IS department awarded a total of \$51,000 scholarships during the OM&IS Award Banquet on April 25, 2014. The generous scholarship sponsors and the recipients are:

- **Allstate Scholarship**—Jason McCune
- **Cassandra & Randy Young Scholarship**—Vincent Ponzio
- **Caterpillar Scholarship**—Nathaniel Kessel
- **Dave Ficken Family Scholarship**—Troy Swanson
- **Deutsch Family Scholarship**—Cori Stewart, Christina Doerner
- **DreamsWorks Scholarship**—Drew Dalton
- **Dr. Kathleen McFadden Community Service Scholarship**—Curtis Orndorf
- **Godambe Family Scholarship**—Mohammed Wahaj
- **Information Integrity Coalition Scholarship**—Yan Chen
- **Jeffery Burton Lollar Memorial Scholarship**—Robert Jusino
- **Marchewka Family Scholarship**—Timothy Peters
- **Marian E. Millington Scholarship for the Advancement of Women in Information Technology**—Kathleen Abell, Taylor Ancelet, Joceline Jimenez, Carly Steffen
- **Matthew L. Johnson Scholarship**—Nicholas Larson, Fabiola Fernandez
- **McKesson Scholarship**—Jenna Marchiorello
- **Microsoft Scholarship**—Mark Kreuz
- **MIS Outstanding Graduate Student Award**—Yan Chen, Bryan Hall
- **Motar Board Senior Honor Society Scholarship**—Anthony Ristich
- **Nathan Griffin Memorial Scholarship**—Jose Arteaga
- **OM&IS Advanced Project Management**—Mayowa Adejinle, Tanya Cervantes, Sharmila Chelladurai, Christopher Colombe, Ryan Eckart, Adam Enright, Bryan Hall, Anusha Kandi, Paul Leguillon, Ivan Matosevic, David Snyder, Benjamin Steckler, John Wolcott
- **OM&IS Excellence Student Scholarship**—Soumya Kesireddy
- **OM&IS Executive Advisory Council Scholarship**—Temitope Olatoya-Ojo, Chris Pantel
- **OM&IS Faculty Scholarship**—Imtiyaz Ali Mir
- **OM&IS Leadership Scholarship**—Dustin King
- **OM&IS Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award**—Kathleen Abell
- **OM&IS Programming**—Sergio Flores, Sireesha Gurram
- **OM&IS Student Excellence (Towell Family) Scholarship**—Devin Stompanato
- **Paytovi Family Scholarship**—Javier Chavez
- **Richard Born OMIS Electives**—Carol Marr
- **Target SAP Scholarship**—Nathaniel Kessel, Laura Greybill, Mason Bush, Aaron Wechter
- **TSI—Transforming.com OM&IS Scholarship**—Jason Sullivan
- **William and Eileen Breitzke Scholarship**—Antonio Elliott

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30,000 and 40,000 in the next several years. Students who complete the workshop and pass the certification exam will be equipped with a solid understanding of how SAP can be used to optimize an organization's business processes. Students will benefit from increased internship and job opportunities because of their TERP10 certification and the coursework provided by the NIU College of Business. For more SAP TERP10 workshop information, please contact Dr. Andrew Setterstrom at asetterstrom@niu.edu.

Faculty global reach



Murcia, Spain—**Dr. Kathleen L. McFadden** received a global research fellowship award to travel to Murcia, Spain in March. While there she presented her own research findings, and then mentored operations management faculty in the processes and pedagogies involved in conducting academic research. Over the next year, she will be working closely with two of these professors to produce significant research outcomes.



Bordeaux, France—Professor and Department Chair **Chang Liu** taught a business intelligence class at the Bordeaux University School of Management in March 2014 as part of an exchange program between NIU's MBA program and Bordeaux University's Master of International Business (MIB).

This is the fifth time that the OM&IS department sent faculty to Bordeaux University. **Drs. Kathleen McFadden, Jack Marchewka, Charles Petersen** and **Jung Young Lee** went there to teach in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 respectively.



Bogotá, Colombia—**Dr. Nancy Russo** taught an IT strategy class to graduate students at the PRIME Business School at Sergio Arboleda University in Bogotá, Colombia in March. The students were very engaged and active learners, and willing to share their experiences with the class. Their broad range of backgrounds included the head of IT for GM in Columbia, several VPs in the financial sector, a coffee farmer, an entrepreneur, and the leader of the cybersecurity division of Colombia's military.



Bogotá, Colombia—**Dr. Charles Petersen** taught a supply chain management class to graduate students at the PRIME Business School at Sergio Arboleda University in Bogotá, Colombia in May. Thirty of the students were enrolled in a joint MBA program with NIU and travelled to DeKalb & Naperville over the March 30-April 17 period. An additional 15 students were taking the class as part of their Executive MBA program or other master programs in the PRIME Business School.

Faculty recognized for excellence at the OM&IS Award Banquet



Outstanding Faculty Research Award
Dr. Kathleen McFadden



Graduate Faculty Teaching Award
Dr. Jack Marchewka



Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award
Dr. Kathleen McFadden



Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award
Dr. Shail Godambe



Undergraduate Faculty Teaching Award
Mr. Brian Bender



Outstanding Faculty Service Award
Dr. Nancy Russo