I hope you are all off to a great start for the fall semester. COVID-19 continues to affect the way we live and study. The department has had to adjust the OM&IS undergraduate and graduate course delivery to a mix of fully online and hybrid modality to ensure the safety and well-being for both faculty and students. Although we all miss the fun face-to-face interaction in the Barsema Hall, I want to assure you that we are intent on delivering the same high-quality academic experience you expect from the OM&IS programs. Our faculty have committed to help you learn, succeed and stay on target for your planned graduation dates. Please reach out to your instructors if you have any questions on your courses.

While this fall semester is very different from the past, I’d like to share with you that our undergraduate program in Operations and Information Management and our graduate programs in Management Information Systems and Data Analytics continue to be very successful in terms of students interest, job placement and graduate starting salary. For example, within two years of the program launching, enrollment in M.S. in Data Analytics (MSDA) has exceeded the growth predictions with over 150 students in fall 2020. Our alumni and employers appreciate all our programs in which we have effectively integrated business operations with information technology and data analytics.

While we are launching arguably the most unusual academic year in our lifetime this fall, please enjoy your education journey at OM&IS and continue to press on to work hard on all your assignments. Remember — Huskies. Never. Quit. Go Huskies!

Chang Liu
Chair of NIU College of Business OM&IS

Glenn Named OM&IS Outstanding Alumnus

Kyle Glenn has remained consistently active in our department since his graduation as an OM&IS major in 2006. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Glenn joined McKesson Corporation in their operations training program. Shortly after joining McKesson, he began giving back to his department. Not only is Glenn a frequent guest speaker in OM&IS classes, he also recruits other alumni from McKesson to get involved in our department. He serves

See Glenn on Page 3.
OM&IS, MIS and MSDA Student Spotlight

Pierre Sanders-Jackson  
B.S./OM&IS '19

I was a business administration major looking to become an entrepreneur. Soon, I chose to switch to OM&IS. However, it wasn’t until I began my OM&IS 259 class that I opened my eyes to what this great major truly is. The creativity and problem solving that we encountered in OM&IS was exciting to me, as I could begin to think outside the box with different methodologies of solving a problem.

OM&IS brings together a fantastic blend of the business management and IT. A great example constantly pushed through the department is taking one hand symbolizing the business problem and crossing it over into the other hand representing an IT solution, to demonstrate how these two could merge effortlessly. Each class presented me with the opportunity to focus not only on technical skills, but to see how a business functioned through an IT standpoint. Being able to think critically, analyze a problem, and bridge the gap between IT and the business were skills I became passionate to perfect.

I have grown exceptionally in each of the skills I have acquired at NIU, and with the help of the OM&IS department, I landed my first position in technology at ULINE as a business intelligence developer. Within the first few weeks of training at ULINE, I began to see my classwork emerge before my eyes. I was thrilled to see my hard work and experience with the College of Business being recognized in the business world. I hope to become more proficient in analytical development while reaching toward programming and app development to bring value and ambition to my ULINE team.

Bharath Nanduri  
M.S./MIS '20

Realizing the need for the right education and exposure to be successful, I wanted to pursue my master’s degree in the U.S. In that process, I came across NIU’s Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MIS) program. It fits my needs perfectly as it combines solid technical coursework with a high emphasis on the business side of the technology. While in the program, distinguished College of Business alumnus, like Dennis Barsema, and his successful entrepreneurial journey, inspired me to work hard and apply myself during my time at NIU.

I was fortunate enough to be able to utilize all that NIU and the MIS program had to offer. Throughout my time in the program, I leveraged many of the opportunities presented to me, including but not limited to, earning a certification from SAP, and SAP student recognition award. I was able to network and learn invaluable lessons from two CTO’s, as well as senior directors and numerous senior executives of Fortune 500 companies. Even with all of these, the most memorable moments in my time in the MIS program came from my involvement with my student organization, Association for Operations Management (APICS). During my time with the club, we won back-to-back first place awards at the regional APICS Supply Chain Case Competitions. Winning these competitions while representing NIU was the highlight of my time in the MIS program.

Kevin Rius  
M.S./MSDA '20

After graduating from NIU’s OM&IS program in May 2019, I started my career as a Data and Client Services Analyst within the private equity industry. This position requires a lot of analytical analysis, technical, and auditing skills. My work consists of providing analytical analysis for our equity investments and compensation teams. I am also a member of a team that manages our Oracle Human Capital Management system. We have recently implemented a few modules which include Oracle Recruiting Cloud, Oracle Cloud Analytics, Oracle Integration Cloud, and Oracle Health and Safety to name a few.

I decided to work and pursue higher education to further my understanding. Therefore, I enrolled in the OM&IS department’s program for a Master’s in Data Analytics (MSDA) — this would turn out to be the best early career decision I have made. The MSDA professors understand many of their students enrolled in the program are also currently advancing their professional careers and relate the coursework to this. Their teaching style is helpful, efficient and very effective. The dedication I have seen from professors to provide helpful videos, additional industry readings, challenging topics and overall course assistance is unmatched to any program. I would strongly urge anyone to pursue their professional career while advancing their education in the MSDA program. I have very much enjoyed taking the program at the pace I desire. That is the beauty of the MSDA program — it’s your journey, you make it what you will. I found the best
Kim Joins OM&IS Faculty

Jinhak Kim was formerly an assistant professor in Marketing and Quantitative Methods at the University of South Alabama. He received his Ph.D. in Management (Major in Quantitative Methods) from Purdue University in 2016 and two master’s degrees in Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics from Purdue University in 2009 and 2011, respectively. His teaching interests lie in data analytics, decision analysis, machine learning, data visualization and operations management. His research interests are in data analytics and mathematical programming. His work has been published in journals Mathematical Programming and Decision Sciences.

Glenn
Continued from Page 1.
as a role model for our students and has provided several of our majors with the opportunity to tour McKesson’s distribution center to learn more about their processes and operations. Glenn has been an active member of the OM&IS Executive Advisory Council where he offers innovative ideas and solutions for improving our curriculum. Glenn received his MBA from NIU in 2016. Glenn’s passion for data and information has driven his career into various roles at McKesson. He has managed operations across all shifts in their local distribution center, focusing on continuous improvement projects. As inventory manager, Glenn and his team created a quality accountability program to improve order fulfillment accuracy. As a business process consultant, Glenn gained his certification as a Six Sigma Black Belt. While in that role, he drove more than 50 continuous improvement initiatives across the U.S., saving McKesson more than $6M in expenses in less than 24 months. Glenn later moved into a role in finance and customer analytics for the North Central region and currently serves as the Director of Regional Transportation at McKesson.

Rius
Continued from Page 2.
balance between my career, my education, and my social well-being was to take two courses per term (including the summer).
The MSDA program will expand your analytical knowledge and skillset while challenging you every week. You will be presented with professional career advancements you may not have thought were possible. It will be hard work; there will be long workdays where you will need to come home and complete coursework or study. Every challenge presents great opportunities and through the MSDA program you will be presented with many, all with the goal of making you that great business professional that each NIU Huskie can be.

Highlights
Continued from page 1.
Casey Walters received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award in March 2020 presented by NIU Graduate School.
OM&IS APICS student team won the first place award for the third consecutive year at the regional APICS Case Competition in February 2020. The team members were Jonathan Sovsky, Anirudh Thota, Arjun Soni and Bharath Nanduri.
Profs Xinyan Cao, Yipeng Liu, Onkar Malgonde, Kathleen McFadden and Balaji Rajagopalan have their research work published in the FY20 academic year in the top-ranked OM&IS academic journals.
Instructor Federico Bassetti was a recipient for the Dean’s Instructional Innovation Summer Fellowship award.
Scholarship and Award Winners

Because of COVID-19, the OM&IS department did not have an official award ceremony in the spring semester. However, we awarded a total of $97,000 including new international MIS student scholarships during the 2019-20 academic year. The generous scholarship sponsors and recipients were:


**Beth Towell Excellence in Data Analytics Scholarship** — Sharath Kumar Reddy Guddati.

**Denise Schoenbachler Leadership Award in MIS/SAP Integration** — Ashita FNU, Divya Sri Cherukuri, Parna Kanakadandhi, Likhitha Madasu, Hetal Panchal, Shreya Pant, Harshitha Galla, Ishita Sharma, Samrutha Kurhade and Azra Fabbha.

**Kathleen McFadden Community Service Scholarship** — Timothy Co.

**Osterberg Memorial Scholarship** — Cody Bradshaw.

**Godambe Family Scholarship** — Shavin Basnet.

**Jeffrey Burton Lollar Memorial Scholarship** — Tejal Patel.

**Marchewka Family Scholarship** — Rozetter Lowe.

**Marian E. Millington Scholarships for Advancement of Women in IT** — Anna McComb, Molly Seidl, and Mingyi Chen.

**OM&IS Student Excellence (Liu Family) Scholarship** — Juaid Hussain.

**Outstanding MIS Student Scholarships** — Ravi Harsha Pandirla, Priya Santhakumari Devi and Aakash Sangoi.

**Outstanding OM&IS Student Scholarships** — Tristan Thomas, Curtis Baryla and Matthew Ziegler.

**Pearson Publisher Scholarship** — Nathaniel Narofsky.

**Stanley Lipien and James Mailander Scholarship** — Giovanni Montero.

**Target SAP Scholarship** — Jackson Marcinkiewicz.

**William and Eileen Brietzke Endowed Scholarships** — Reid Scott, Alex Wood and Francisco Carillo.

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**Virtual OM&IS Meet the Firm Event**

The department is hosting the annual Meet the Firm Night (Career Fair) from 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020. This year the event will be hosted online through the Huskies Get Hired platform using Symplicity.

For more information and to register please visit: [go.niu.edu/OMISMeettheFirm](http://go.niu.edu/OMISMeettheFirm).

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Faculty Recognized for Excellence

The OM&IS Department recognized faculty for their distinction.

**Outstanding Faculty Research Award** — Onkar Malgonde.

**Graduate Faculty Teaching Award** — Andrew Setterstrom

**Undergraduate Faculty Teaching Award** — Aimee Wu.

**Outstanding Faculty Service Award** — Charles Petersen.