Korrey Anderson has been named the 2019 OM&IS Outstanding Alumna. She graduated from the OM&IS program in May 2012. Upon her graduation, she joined the McDonald’s Corporation as a quality assurance analyst. Anderson also managed to earn her MBA from NIU in May 2018 with a 4.0 GPA. Anderson now serves as a cybersecurity service manager at McDonald’s to manage the global endpoint solution for the organization to ensure the continued security of its corporate, restaurant and global machines.

Chris Millington, OM&IS Executive Advisory Council (EAC) chair, reflected that Anderson was the first recipient of the Marian Elizabeth Millington Scholarship for Women in Information Technology. “Anderson was to become a cornerstone for a hope and vision to advance women’s careers in IT,” Millington said. “She made me a believer that it was possible to have young women engage and advance in the ranks of

See Anderson on page 2.
Palese joins OM&IS faculty

Biagio Palese received his Ph.D. in Information Systems from Louisiana State University. He earned an undergraduate degree in economics of international markets and a master’s degree in international business and economics from the University of Pavia, Italy. His teaching and research interests embrace introduction to management information systems, data analytics, effective use, customer service, digital data streams and text mining. His research has appeared in journal publications such as MISQ Executive and the International Journal of Information Management, and in conference proceedings including ICIS and AMCIS.

Anderson

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“Korrey Anderson is a role model for all OM&IS alumni. She and others are very much willing to give back to support the OM&IS scholarship program,” said Chang Liu, OM&IS department chair.

Anderson serves as an active member of the OM&IS EAC board representing McDonald’s to provide ideas toward enhancing our curriculum.

Highlights

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Federico Bassetti joined the OM&IS department as a full-time instructor.

Twenty-five students attended Federico Bassetti’s SCRUM - Agile Development Methodology workshop in spring 2019. Nine of the workshop students were hired as interns by Discover to become Discover Campus Innovators for its code_orange program on NIU’s campus.

Forty-eight students enrolled in Professor Andrew Setterstrom’s SAP TS410 summer 2019 workshop.

Professor Chuck Downing’s OMIS 665 – Big Data Analytics for Business received a record passing rate of 95.6% for the Dell/EMC certification exam in May 2019.

From spring 2013 to spring 2019, a total of 226 OM&IS undergraduates and MIS graduates received the Certificate in Business Analytics Using SAS Software – SAS Joint Certificate Program.
OM&IS, MIS and MSDA Student Spotlight

Casey Walters
(B.S./OM&IS May 2019)

I am graduating this spring with majors in OM&IS and marketing. I chose to be an OM&IS major for a variety of reasons. As new technologies are developed, it is important for businesses to adapt and use them to their advantage. In OM&IS, we learn exactly how to do that. There is a need for analytical thinkers who understand how to solve problems with technology. Being analytically driven and having a desire to work with others, OM&IS seemed to be a great fit for me. Ultimately, what really made me want to go into OM&IS was the current gender distribution. Women make up around 20% of U.S. tech jobs. This is a sad statistic, but also somewhat inspiring. I am confident I can make that number grow by entering this field myself and posing as a role model for other women who are interested in OM&IS-related careers. My OM&IS classes have been by far the most rewarding to me in the College of Business. I can see how each skill I have learned can be directly related to a career in IT, operations or data analysis. I am constantly challenged to think critically and encouraged to do so by an amazing OM&IS faculty. As I close in on my final weeks of my undergraduate studies, I look forward to continuing my education at NIU and starting my master’s in MIS this June. In the future, I hope to become an IT project manager and work on teams to help companies adapt to the changing abilities of technology.

Dhana Lakshmi Chinta
(M.S./MIS May 2019)

I grew up in a middle-class family from a small town in a rural part of India. I have always aspired to see myself as the best possible me. I was convincing my father since 2014 that I wanted to pursue my master’s in the United States. Finally, after so many arguments and crying, he agreed in sending me for a master’s degree. I am so proud that I am the first girl from my hometown to come for a master’s degree in the United States. After joining NIU, I realized that people around me were so competitive and advanced. NIU on-campus jobs during my first semester made me increase my presence online (with emailing, applications etc.). I sent almost 200 emails to professors at NIU seeking graduate assistantships. Our campus itself made me experience many interviews. I tried to be very proactive and applied for many conferences’ scholarships as well. I never missed any opportunity in attending women in technology meetings in Chicago. This semester I have attended two women in technology conferences with full scholarships including travel grants. I worked so hard in managing school, part-time jobs and my extracurricular activities (Toastmasters, Women in Tech and my pet projects, etc.). I just did average in school, but I gained so much experience and moved in.

Jason Rhoades
(M.S./MSDA May 2020)

I chose this program because I have always been fascinated with data analytics. I am currently an enrollment advisor for Pearson and I want to make a career move into a more analytical field in the future. Even if I can’t make an immediate move, I can see how being knowledgeable in data analytics and how it applies to business would be beneficial to becoming more efficient in my current role. I chose online specifically because NIU’s campus is over an hour’s drive away from my work. This 100% online program is very flexible, and the professors have responded very quickly to any emails or questions and have been very helpful. I really like that as I can structure my week around work rather than having to try to leave work early to drive to NIU twice a week. This program has allowed me the opportunity to do two or more classes a week because I could cut down on at least five hours a week commuting to and from DeKalb which would have been required if I tried to do the same course load on campus. Thanks to this program structure I will likely be able to finish my degree within the year, if not in the first semester of next year, which is very exciting and would not have been possible on campus. One suggestion — I would like to also see more encouraged peer interaction, maybe with a project or something in the MSDA program. I am hoping to get networking opportunities along with the knowledge I am gaining from the program. I am happy to help contribute in any way to make this program a great experience for everyone.
Scholarship and Award Winners

The Department of OM&IS awarded a total of $143,000 in scholarships during the 2018-2019 academic year. The generous scholarship sponsors and recipients are:


**Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship in Business** – Isabel Romero.

**Deutsch Family Scholarships** – Nicholette Babayan, Mingyi Chen, Ainsley Galvez, and Molly Seidl.

**Donald R. Larson Endowed Scholarship** – Isabel Romero.

**Beth Towell Excellence in Data Analytics Scholarship** – Anusha Kokkinti.

**Denise Schoenbachler Leadership Award in MIS/SAP Integration** – Malvina Bernard Rumao.

**Kathleen McFadden Community Service Scholarship** – Adam Bormann.

**Godambe Family Scholarship** – Julian Torres.

**Information Integrity Coalition Scholarship** – Aditya Amar.

**Jeffrey Burton Lollar Memorial Scholarship** – Leslie Filpo.

**Lois V. Hobart Endowed Scholarship** – Jeremy Simonson.

**Marian E. Millington Scholarships for Advancement of Women in IT** – Abigail Burke, Guojing Chen, Vanesa Lewinski and Casey Walters.

**Nathan Griffin Memorial Scholarship** – Frank Acheampong.

**OMIS Excellence (Towell Family) Student Scholarship** – Jasmine McKinnon.

**OMIS Executive Advisory Council Scholarship** – Christina Ward.

**OMIS Faculty Scholarship** – Ramses Flores.

**OMIS Leadership Award** – Vikas Parab.

**OMIS Student Excellence (Liu Family) Scholarship** – David Cain.

**Outstanding MIS Student Scholarships** – Hareendra Donapati, Hardik Jain and Rui Zhang.

**Outstanding OMIS Student Scholarships** – Cody Bradshaw, Eugene Ciesla and Thomas Sijimon.

**Pearson Publisher Scholarship** – Jason Manivong.

**Randall N. Beck Memorial Scholarships** – Abigail Burke, John Holliday, Stephanie Perez and Reid Scott.

**Rita C. Patti Student Endowment Scholarship** – Molly Seidl.

**Stanley Lipien and James Mailander Scholarship** – Param Dagli.

**Target SAP Scholarships** – Jackson Marcinkiewicz and Brittany Moudy.

**William and Eileen Brietzke Endowed Scholarships** – John Holliday, Reid Scott and Jeremy Simonson.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Fall 2019 OM&IS Open House**

Wednesday Oct. 9 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Barsemann Atrium, Pond Side.

**M.S. in Management Information Systems (MIS) and M.S. in Data Analytics (MSDA) Informational Sessions**

Taking place 4:30-5:15 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4, in Barsemann Hall 340 and on Tuesday, Nov. 5, in Barsemann Hall 240.

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**Faculty recognized for excellence at the OM&IS Award Banquet**

- **Outstanding Faculty Research Award** – Ying Wang.
- **Graduate Faculty Teaching Award** – Chuck Downing.
- **Undergraduate Faculty Teaching Award** – Karah Osterberg.
- **Outstanding Faculty Service Award** – Yipeng Liu.

**Chinta**

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the right direction in my career. The last semester, along with an ELC project, I was working as a full stack .NET developer intern at American Marketing and Publishing Company (which I got through the NIU Career Fair). I have been interviewing with many companies this semester and finally I got into Ernst & Young as application security analyst. I am so grateful to NIU and the OM&IS department for helping with my next move in life.