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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, April 2
School of Business
Scholarship &
Awards Program
11:00 a.m.
Morris University Center

Saturday, May 5
Commencement
Vadalabene Center

Message from the Chair

These first few months as department chair have been eventful and challenging. I continue to learn every day about aspects of our department, school, and university that were so aptly handled since I arrived at SIUE in 1999 by former department chairs Dr. Doug Bock and Dr. John Schrage.

I believe the phrase "The only thing constant is change" is credited to Heraclitus, a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher. If so, the CMIS Department is right on track! The current changes involve a retirement (Dr. John Schrage on December 31, 2006 - you will be missed!), recruiting a new faculty member, updating curriculum, and the list goes on.

One of the most exciting changes is the introduction of SAP R/3 into the CMIS 342 Information Systems for Business course. More information about this appears in the article "Curriculum to Include Popular Software." In addition to this new introduction in CMIS 342, Dr. Mary Sumner's CMIS 557 Enterprise Resource Planning course for Master's students allows each student to construct a functioning company operating in an integrated SAP R/3 environment, and Dr. Jo Ellen Moore's CMIS 495/588 SAP ABAP Programming

course enables students to develop the knowledge and skills needed to work in the SAP R/3 development environment. Among her other activities, Dr. Mary Sumner, professor of CMIS and associate dean for Executive and Continuing Education for the School of Business, is responsible for the development and delivery of a new series of Project Management Workshops. This 10-day program has been so well received by our business partners that the CMIS Department is investigating the addition of a Project Management concentration for all Master's students in the School of Business.

In the midst of all the changes, I see an important constant - support from and for the students, staff, and faculty in CMIS. Thank you!



Dr. Susan Yager

*Dr. Susan Yager
Chair, CMIS Department*

Play Ball! (In San Francisco)

Retired CMIS chair and professor, John Schrage, and his wife, Diane, are hosting a reception at their new condominium in San Francisco for the SIUE School of Business alumni. The event will take place right before the baseball game between the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals and the San

Francisco Giants Wednesday, April 18, 2007. If you are interested in participating, please contact Judy Woodruff, Director of Development and Alumni Programs for the School of Business at 618.650.2317 or jwoodru@siue.edu.

Visit the CMIS Department on-line at: <http://www.siue.edu/business/cmis>

Newsletter Editor: Theresa Denten

Alumni Spotlight: Kurt Emshousen

Manager of Information Risk Management, KPMG LLP



Kurt Emshousen

Since graduating from SIUE in 2001, **Kurt G. Emshousen** has made good use of his CMIS degree. Less than five years after graduation, Kurt is working at KPMG—one of the Big Four accounting firms—as a manager of Information Risk Management, and he’s loving it.

Kurt is the first to say that his time at SIUE put him on the road to success. “What is so unique about SIUE is that even with a

CMIS degree, I received a broad education in business. I don’t know of any other program that integrates IT and business so well.”

For Emshousen, the road to success took many twists and turns. At a time when most people his age were wrapping up their college careers, Emshousen was working as a police officer first in Wyoming and then in Alton, Ill. He came from a law enforcement family, so he said it seemed only natural to become a cop as well. He soon realized that he wasn’t cut out for that life.

By the time he decided to go back to school he was a husband and a father who was working 50 hours a week to make ends meet. As Emshousen explains, “For me, one of the best things about SIUE was how the faculty helps non-traditional students succeed.”

And succeed is exactly what Emshousen did. Despite the challenges, he graduated in just two and a half years and immediately began work at SBC as a software developer. When he made the move to KPMG, Emshousen felt he had found the perfect fit—a job that allows him to use his education in both business and IT.

Emshousen, however, is not about to get complacent. In addition to his job at KPMG, the father of six coaches many sports teams and has high hopes for his other hobby—real estate.

And if that’s not enough, Emshousen will be returning to SIUE in the fall to start his MBA. When asked how he manages all his different roles, Emshousen simply responds, “As my old sergeant used to say, ‘Don’t mess with the birds when you are up to your neck in alligators.’ You just can’t sweat the small stuff.”

“For me, one of the best things about SIUE was how the faculty helps non-traditional students succeed.”

Curriculum to Include Popular Software

The CMIS 342 Information Systems for Business team recently elected to make SAP R/3 a core element of the CMIS program. SAP R/3 is the world’s most-used standard business software for client/server computing, focusing on information systems principles in business applications.

The introduction of SAP R/3 infuses the CMIS curriculum with an outward-looking, business-oriented perspective by responding to the call for tangible expertise by the public, private, and academic sectors of society.

The primary purpose of CMIS 342 is to help business students analyze how computer-

based information systems support operational, tactical, and planning decisions. Now it will better prepare students to operate within information systems that are valued by the business community.

“SAP R/3 is being taught in CMIS 342 because the industry is looking for business graduates who understand how an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system supports ‘best practices’ for every function of business,” said Dr. Mary Sumner, associate dean of the School of Business and CMIS 342 instructor. “We are fortunate to be able to provide our students with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience using ERP modules.”

Tim Jones' Achievements Recognized

The many achievements of **Timothy W. Jones, Sr.** (BS '06) of Belleville, Ill., recently were recognized when he was named the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Student Leader of the Month. Jones graduated from SIUE in December with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Management and Information Systems (CMIS).

During his tenure as president of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP), Jones increased membership by 21 students, implemented changes that allowed the acceptance of pre-major students into the organization, and developed strong relationships with other local chapters.

The Student Leader of the Month Award recognizes outstanding efforts in a School of Business student organization. Candidates are nominated by their organization's members. The AITP offers opportunities for information technology leadership and education through partnerships with industry, government, and academia.

"Tim is an inspiration to us all and greatly deserves this award," says Dr. Mark Ward, assistant professor and faculty advisor of AITP. "As AITP president, he has changed the organization into a vibrant and vital student group, and I can't wait to see what else he will accomplish."

In response to the award, Jones said, "To be selected from the many great student organization leaders who work diligently each month is an honor; however, this award could easily have been shared with others in AITP leadership who have all been instrumental in our accomplishments this semester."

Currently, Jones is working on establishing "communication centers" within retirement facilities in the Edwardsville area. Jones said, "In addition to setting up a donated computer, we will offer training to the residents to assist them in communicating with their families and loved ones by way of email."



Bob Zoelzer, Group Recruiting Manager (left), and Lee Lewis, Jr., Community Relations Manager (right), both of Enterprise Rent-A-Car, congratulate Timothy Jones, Sr.

"Tim is an inspiration to us all and greatly deserves this award."

Dr. Mark Ward

Help Honor Long-Time Faculty Member Dr. John Schrage



Dr. John Schrage

The School of Business is beginning a new tradition by creating a scholarship that honors and thanks faculty members who have dedicated their lives to educating business students at SIUE.

This one-time scholarship in the retiree's name will be awarded to a student from the retiree's department who best exemplifies that person. This new tradition will assist some of the school's most outstanding students while honoring the hard work and dedication of our outstanding faculty retirees.

We are proud to begin this new tradition with the retirement of a long-time CMIS faculty

member, Dr. John Schrage, chair of the CMIS Department. In the 28 years that Schrage has taught at SIUE, he has touched thousands of student's lives in a way only a former CMIS student can understand.

Because of the personal nature of this scholarship, we would like to give you, a CMIS alum, a chance to honor and thank Dr. Schrage by supporting this effort with a gift in his honor to the School of Business scholarship fund.

If you wish to participate, please send your gift to:

Judy Woodruff
Director of Development
SIUE School of Business
3307 Founders Hall, Box 1051
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1051

Unprecedented Acceptance of Papers Leads Three Students to Acapulco

A trip to sunny Acapulco wasn't what **David A. Farrar** (BS '06), **Thomas W. Doellman** (BS '05, MBA '06), or **Jason W. Allen** (BS '05) had in mind when they completed their senior research papers for Dr. Anne Powell's CMIS 470 class in 2005. Ultimately, however, their academic excellence and professionalism took them there.

The Americas Conference on Information Systems is the second largest conference for MIS faculty and accepts only 50 percent of the papers that are submitted. After reviewing and editing, Dr. Powell submitted Farrar's paper, "Do Individuals and Universities Perceive the Necessity of Security Courses," and Doellman's and Allen's paper, "Acceptance of Online Voting: New Voters and Senior Citizens."

In an unprecedented move, both student papers were accepted. Both Dave and Tom did outstanding jobs

presenting their papers, impressing all the MIS professionals in their sessions. As Dr. Powell stated, "I received numerous comments from faculty from around the country who couldn't believe that Tom and Dave were undergraduates. Several commented that they couldn't get that level of performance out of their Master's students, let alone undergrads."

Dave graduated cum laude from the CMIS program in May 2006 and now is employed by WAM Computers in Litchfield, Ill. Both Tom and Jason graduated magna cum laude with their BS in CMIS degrees in May 2005. Since then, Tom has completed his MBA from SIUE and currently is looking into Ph.D. programs in the field of MIS or finance.



David A. Farrar, Dr. Anne Powell and Thomas W. Doellman

Change Service requested

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