

Winter 2008

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Message from the Chair

The CMIS Department continues its tradition of change – to better meet student needs. In the last newsletter, I mentioned the success of Dr. Mary Sumner's Project Management Workshops. This program has been so successful that we have added a concentration in Project Management for students in both the M.S. in CMIS and the MBA programs. For more information, please see the story on page three and visit the CMIS web site. I will summarize some additional changes for you here.

I was selected by The Boeing Company as one of eight Boeing Welliver Faculty Fellows and spent eight weeks last summer observing operations in southern California and St. Louis. What an amazing opportunity and experience for me to see best practices in action and to bring back what I learned to our students!

Dr. Bijoy Bordoloi received a Fulbright Scholarship to India for 2007-08, which began in August 2007. He spent six months as a Fulbright Scholar teaching and conducting research in India. To learn more, please see the story on page three.

Dr. Clay Williams joined the department as an Assistant Professor in August 2007. Dr. Williams completed his Ph.D. in Management Information Systems at the University of Georgia and brings a wealth of industry experience along with his educational studies. He currently is teaching CMIS 342 Information Systems for Business and will begin teaching graduate courses next year.

Dr. Anne Powell is on professional development leave during the spring 2008 semester, updating her knowledge of web-based applications and programming languages. In addition, Dr. Powell and a few of our top students attended the Maritz Global Technology Division's Technology Conference in February.



Dr. Susan Yager

Drs. Jo Ellen Moore and Anne Powell have been chosen by the Office of the Provost as members of a select group of 50 faculty across campus who "illustrate characteristics of excellent Teacher-Scholars at SIUE." Only three faculty members from the School of Business were selected, and two are in the CMIS Department! Please watch for a future SIUE Teacher-Scholar Showcase web site for information regarding our outstanding Teacher-Scholars.

On the technology side, the CMIS faculty is "practicing what we preach":

- We have a new computer classroom. Founders Hall 3207 is now outfitted to accommodate up to 35 students in a lab-type setting. This space began hosting classes in Fall 2007. Its primary use is CMIS 342, which now has a lower class limit to allow for hands-on instruction on ERP using SAP R/3, and other CMIS courses that require

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Message from the Chair (continued from p. 1)

specialized operating systems and software applications.

- The CMIS faculty is utilizing SharePoint Services, which allows us to share information and collaborate on documents. In addition, each faculty member can personalize his/her view of the site.
- Dr. Kathy Harting is exploring the possibility of using Second Life in CMIS 472 End User Systems Development.
- We are offering two classes during the two-week break between spring and summer semesters this year: Professor Jim Mussulman will teach CMIS 310 Information Technology Hardware and Systems Software, and Professor Terri Keister will teach a new CMIS 495/588

Seminar: ERP Configuration (using SAP R/3). This format has worked well in the past, allowing students to complete a course in two weeks by attending half-day classes, Monday through Friday.

- Another new class is offered this summer – CMIS 495/588 Seminar: ADO.NET Programming taught by Dr. Doug Bock.

Be on the lookout for the new CMIS T-shirts – appearing on campus soon. In the midst of all the exciting changes, I see an important constant: support from and for the students, staff, and faculty in CMIS.

*Dr. Susan Yager
Chair, CMIS Department*

An Alumnus Helps Pave the Way for Future SIUE Students

“Try to get experience in the field. As an intern, you have the best opportunity to test drive an employer, and they get to test drive you.”

Wesley J. Frick (BS '72) fondly remembers his days as an SIUE undergraduate. In fact, he credits that experience with helping to launch his successful 33-year IT career at Boeing.

“As the first in my family to go to college, SIUE represented a lot for me,” he says. “I received a quality, affordable education in a cultural environment. The school’s management science program was also one of the only ones available in the area at that time.”

About 10 years ago, Frick joined the Technology and Commerce Roundtable at SIUE. This group brought together alumni, industry executives and SIUE students to discuss current issues and make recommendations to the business school’s department. It was an ideal platform to introduce new ideas and encourage networking. In addition, the Roundtable periodically hosted symposiums that were open to the general public.

In 2006, shortly after the overwhelming response to one of the symposiums (more than 400 people expressed interest), the Roundtable evolved to become the Project Management Advisory Board.

“The transition from the Roundtable to the Advisory Board was a direct result of the industry’s own evolution,” Frick says. “SIUE recognized the need to adapt the program and helped us speed up the process.”

Frick has truly enjoyed being a part of the Roundtable and now the Project Management Advisory Board. He also recognizes Boeing for taking a special interest in SIUE and encouraging him to reach out to his alma mater.

“Boeing relies on its staff to help foster productive relationships with local and regional universities. In this way, Boeing is giving back to the community and recruiting future professionals at the same time,” he says.

Although he is retired, Frick continues to participate on the Project Management Advisory Board and lecture on risk management for the Project Management Professional Workshop Series. He also serves SIUE as a curriculum advisor, helping to better prepare CMIS students for today’s business challenges. In addition to concentrated coursework, Frick also emphasizes the importance of internships: “Try to get experience in the field. As an intern, you have the best opportunity to test drive an employer, and they get to test drive you.”

Fulbright Scholarship Professor Found India Trip ‘Rewarding’

SIUE CMIS professor Dr. Bijoy Bordoloi recently returned from India after completing a six-month Fulbright Scholarship teaching program. This prestigious opportunity brought Dr. Bordoloi to the Birla Institute of Technology & Science on the Pilani campus in Ragasdhan, India.

“It was a rewarding, eye-opening experience on so many levels,” he recalls. “As a Fulbright Scholar, I had the incredible task of exposing students to U.S. educational values on a grassroots level.”

Throughout his time there, Dr. Bordoloi presented lectures at several universities outside of the Birla Institute, including premiere and second-tier schools. He lectured primarily about technology and information systems, and highlighted the successes of well-known American technology entrepreneurs such as Bill Gates and Michael Dell, as well as some Indian technology entrepreneurs like Sabeer Bhatia, founder of Hotmail.

“Hearing the different success stories about certain American and Indian technology entrepreneurs encouraged leadership development and served to motivate these

students to want to learn more,” he says.

In addition, Dr. Bordoloi’s lectures often addressed the students’ questions about current business management issues, particularly the sub-prime market, global markets and the in-sourcing trend.

Dr. Bordoloi’s influence extended beyond the students. He frequently interacted with the administrators at the various universities who were eager to learn more about the education system in the U.S. “They truly value the flexibility that we extend to our students,” he says. “For instance, a student’s ability to change his/her major is rather unheard of in their education system. They also admire the work study programs that we offer our students.”

Dr. Bordoloi has enjoyed sharing his Fulbright Scholarship experience with those abroad and at home at SIUE. He is optimistic that the interest in collegiate abroad programs will continue to grow, and perhaps someday, become a pre-requisite for all business students.



“As a Fulbright Scholar, I had the incredible task of exposing students to U.S. educational values on a grassroots level.”

Project Management Program Experiencing Tremendous Growth and Success

SIUE School of Business is proud of its solid reputation in the local and regional markets. Among some of the younger academic institutions in the area, the School is constantly evolving, striving to be a pioneer and to remain competitive. The new Project Management Program is one example of how SIUE is leading the way: the School is the first in the metropolitan area to offer this kind of specialized program.

In 1997, the CMIS department at SIUE, under the direction of Associate Dean Dr.

Mary Sumner, launched the Technology and Commerce Roundtable in response to local industry interest. The Roundtable, which included alumni, industry executives and SIUE students, addressed current issues and challenges in the industry and made subsequent recommendations to the CMIS department. The group frequently hosted symposiums that were open to the general public, often attracting the interest of hundreds of business students and industry professionals.

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Project Management Program (continued from p. 3)

In 2006, the Roundtable evolved to become the Project Management Advisory Board, helping to launch SIUE's Project Management Institute. Currently, the Board has 25 members representing SIUE faculty, alumni, and local major corporations, including Ameren Corporation, AT&T, Boeing, CSC, Edward Jones, Macy's, Monsanto, Northrop Grumman IT, SAIC and Sigma-Aldrich.

"The members of this Board have been truly instrumental in identifying the market needs for well-educated project managers," says Dr. Sumner. "As a result, our programs have been designed to address these needs."

The growing demand in the field for project management specialists prompted SIUE and the Advisory Board to create the Project Management Professional Workshop Series, which is now in its third year. The five-day series, taught by industry practitioners, SIUE faculty and alumni, covers a variety of topics in the foundation of project management, including integration and scope, time, human resources, communication, risk, quality, procurement and cost

management. Approximately 250 participants representing more than 45 companies attended the fall 2006 and spring 2007 workshops.

"Unlike other area programs, our workshop participants develop an actual project management plan that they can take with them and implement in future professional projects," notes Dr. Sumner.

Some of the other executive and professional education programs available include the Construction Leadership Institute, which focuses specifically on the construction industry; Project Management Symposia, which highlights industry best practices; and Technology Seminars, which updates IT professionals with the latest technology skills.

To support the new project management concentration, SIUE School of Business began offering project management courses to all MBA and MS CMIS in the 2007 fall semester. As the interest in this field surges, SIUE will continue to respond proactively.

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