OM&IS Expands SAP in the Classroom

As part of its participation in the SAP University Alliance, the OM&IS Department has implemented SAP in both the undergraduate and graduate curriculum in 2012. SAP is the market leader in enterprise systems application software. Those undergraduate courses are: OMIS 444 – Manufacturing Technology Management, OMIS 455 – Enterprise Resource Planning, and OMIS 478 – Supply Chain Systems. The graduate MIS courses with SAP hands-on applications are: OMIS 643 – Enterprise Process Improvement, OMIS 661 – Business Intelligence Applications and Tools, and OMIS 694 – Advanced Topics in Information Systems. Students will be presented with SAP Student Recognition Awards when they successfully complete a minimum of three courses powered by SAP hands-on experience. The department expects approximately twenty OM&IS students will receive SAP Student Recognition Awards in December 2012. In addition, Target Corporation offered a total of $6,000 SAP scholarships in 2012 to encourage the OM&IS students to explore enterprise information systems using SAP.

OM&IS Open House and MIS Informational Session

The fall 2012 OM&IS Open House is scheduled for Monday, October 8 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Barsema Hall 328. Our faculty and students would love to talk to you to help you learn more about the OM&IS undergraduate programs, The Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MIS) will have two informational sessions: Monday, November 5 and Tuesday, November 6 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Barsema Hall 233. These sessions provide prospective candidates the opportunity to hear from MIS faculty, the program advisor, and MIS students. We hope to see you there. Feel free to contact Mr. Steven Kispert, Academic Advisor and Internship Coordinator, at 815-753-6372 or skispert@niu.edu if you are interested in being an OM&IS or MIS major.

Businessweek Ranked the Information Systems Programs No. 23 and Operations Management No. 62 Nationwide

The full 2012 ranking list can be found at www.businessweek.com/interactive_reports/top_undergrad_bschools_by_specialty_2012.html. Congratulations to the Department of OM&IS. In addition, the NIU College of Business ethics program continues to perform well and ranked second best nationally, climbing one spot from 2011 and returning to its perch of 2010. Six specialty programs in the College of Business ranked among nation's top 50 best. The college overall has ranked among the nation's best for each year of the Businessweek annual ranking, initiated in 2006.

Department Recent News

• Joseph A. Hula, OM&IS Executive Advisory Council Member, is named the 2012 College of Business Honorary Alumnus.
• Earl McDonald, a 1991 OM&IS graduate, is named the 2012 Outstanding OM&IS Alumnus.
• OM&IS department won the annual food drive competition in the college in December 2011.
• OM&IS department secretary Kelly Stewart won 2012 NIU Outstanding Service Award.
• OM&IS student Korrey Stralka was a recipient of the 2012 NIU Outstanding Women Award.

Stay Connected

Please keep us informed of both your latest contact information as well as your professional accomplishments. The department has established an OM&IS Alumni Group on LinkedIn. To join, search for “NIU OM&IS Alumni” at www.linkedin.com.
Student Spotlight

Senior Korrey Stralka shares her thoughts on the OM&IS Program

Q: What do you like about the OM&IS program at NIU? The teachers! Their enthusiasm in class makes learning easy and enjoyable. You can really tell how knowledgeable they are in their fields and how much they respect the students, which creates a great learning environment.

Q: What prompted you to major in OM&IS? I chose to be an OM&IS major coming into NIU my freshman year because I wanted to find a major that represented my technical interests and my generally social nature. OM&IS is a good blend of technical skills and business concepts that I will use in the future to work in a social, corporate environment.

Q: Do you have an internship? I graduated from the OM&IS program in spring 2012 and have begun working full-time at McDonald's Corporation as a Quality Assurance Analyst. I had an internship before at McDonald's.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your internship? What I enjoy the most about my job is the fast-paced environment I am a part of. My team is constantly working on new and innovative projects, so I am always learning something new.

Q: Is there anything else you want us to highlight about you? I was involved in the OM&IS Student Advisory Board for two years and served as the Secretary my junior year and the President the last semester of my senior year. I really enjoyed collaborating with the department to plan events and activities for my fellow OM&IS students.

[Note: Korrey is the first Marian E. Millington Scholar for the Advancement of Women in Information Technology.]

Graduate student Temitope Adesida on the MIS Program at NIU

Q: What was your undergraduate major, and where did you receive your undergraduate degree? My undergraduate major was a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, and I received my undergraduate degree at University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana.

Q: Did you have any professional experience before joining the MIS graduate program? Before joining the MIS graduate program, I had experience in two different industries that strengthened my sales and presentation skills. My first job after finishing my undergraduate degree was with a Fortune 500 sales company. After that experience, I decided to utilize my undergraduate education by getting a job in the financial services industry in a financial advisory position with a large regional bank.

Q: What prompted you to choose the MIS graduate program at NIU? As the importance of technology in our everyday lives continues to grow, I felt it would suit my future prospects to improve my practical skills in the field with a degree that focuses not only the technical know-how but the practical applicability employers look for in a strong job candidate. As I searched through schools in the Midwest, NIU was the best choice for its expertise of the faculty, course offerings, location, and affordability.

Q: Do you have an internship? This summer I have chosen to continue my studies at NIU by taking a few computer programming courses to sharpen my skills in that area. Although NIU works with a litany of companies in different industries that place students in competitive fields, I felt in my case I would be better served by staying on campus and taking courses to broaden my technical abilities.

Q: What are some things you enjoy doing in your free time? In my free time I enjoy playing basketball and soccer, listening to jazz, and reading about global events.

Q: Is there anything else you want us to highlight about you? I am a first generation Nigerian-American, and I have traveled through much of western Africa as well as Europe.
Target Case Competition Grant

Thirty-nine OMIS 478 students participated in the Target Supply Chain Case Competition during the fall 2011 semester. Their task was to develop a strategy for Target’s guest-focused supply chain that would 1) reduce inventory levels in Target’s distribution centers, 2) increase in-stock levels in Target’s stores, and 3) keep labor costs at current levels or lower. The seven student teams developed a wide range of possible solutions. Target awarded a total of $5,000 to the top three teams: $500 for each first place student, $250 for each second place student, and $125 for each third place student. These top teams proposed a modified trucking delivery option, a mobile commerce application, and an in-store shelf stocking strategy. The OM&IS department would like to thank Target for its support.

(Left to right) Wendy Oltmen, Charles Petersen, Bryan Hall, and David Medlin

New Faculty

Assistant Professor Yipeng Liu earned a doctorate from the University of Florida in August 2009. He is a graduate of the University of Science and Technology, Beijing, China, earning a bachelor’s of engineering in computer engineering and a master’s in computer science from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. His research interests focus on economic modeling of information systems, quantum computing algorithms in global optimization, online two-sided market platforms analysis, data mining, support vector machines, large-scale optimization and genetic algorithm theory. Prior to joining NIU, Dr. Liu served on the faculty at the University of Scranton, where he earned the Provost’s Faculty Enhancement Award for excellence in scholarly publication. His most recent research work has appeared in top tier scholarly journals including Information Systems Research, Journal of Management Information Systems, European Journal of Operational Research, Decision Support Systems and Journal of Global Optimization. Dr. Liu has presented his research at many international conferences and workshops including: WITS 2007, AMCIS 2008, INFORMS 2008, WEB 2009, INFORMS 2010, WEB 2010 and at the annual ISOM research workshop held in February 2009 at the University of Florida. In his faculty capacity, Dr. Liu has been teaching various MIS courses such as information systems management, business telecommunication networks, database management, business programming, ERP software and systems, among other topics.

Faculty Global Reach

Faculty Exchange with Bordeaux University, France - Professor Charles Petersen taught at the Bordeaux University School of Management in January 2012 as part of an exchange program between NIU’s MBA program and Bordeaux University’s Master of International Business (MIB). The graduate operations management class contained students from almost every part of the world. The twenty hour course was compressed into just four days but Dr. Petersen still found time to take a tour of this world-famous wine making region and enjoy the local cuisine. This is the third time that the OM&IS department sent faculty to Bordeaux University. Drs. Kathy McFadden and Jack Marchewka traveled there to teach in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Faculty Excellence Recognized at the OM&IS Award Banquet

Graduate Faculty Teaching Award
Dr. Jack Marchewka

Undergraduate Faculty Teaching Award
Dr. Charles Downing

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award
Dr. Gerald Aase

Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award
Dr. Shail Godambe

Outstanding Faculty Service Award
Dr. Charles Downing

Outstanding Advisor Award
Mr. Steven Kispert

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## Scholarships Awarded

The OM&IS department awarded a total of $36,000 scholarships at the department’s Award Banquet on April 27, 2012. The generous sponsors of these scholarships and their recipients are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allstate Scholarship</td>
<td>Kurt Lesko, Jenna Marchiorello</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caterpillar Scholarship</td>
<td>Kathleen Abell, Benjamin Farraher, Aikaterini Makridakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-Test Scholarship</td>
<td>Daniel VanDeVoorde</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Integrity Coalition Scholarship</td>
<td>Drew Nielsen</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Burton Lollar Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Andre Phillips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marian E. Millington Scholarship for the Advancement of Women in Information Technology</td>
<td>Kathleen Abell, Aikaterini Makridakis, Carly Steffen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew L. Johnson Scholarship</td>
<td>Rolando Lopez, Melissa Welsh</td>
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<td>McKesson Scholarship</td>
<td>Megan Middleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>OM&amp;IS Faculty Scholarship</td>
<td>Krishnakanth Bheemidi, Tyler McDowall, Manju Nair, Laxman Rapolu</td>
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<tr>
<td>OM&amp;IS Executive Advisory Council Scholarship</td>
<td>Charlotte Eltoft, Varsha Mittal, Jerry Tokars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target SAP Scholarship</td>
<td>Zahyah Alharbi, John Bruce, Rolando Lopez, Melissa Moore, Oscar Morales, Drew Nielsen, Matthew Simko, Graham Szymanski, Ryan Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True Value Scholarship</td>
<td>Udit Agarwal, Nathan DuFoe</td>
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<tr>
<td>William and Eileen Breitzke</td>
<td>Matthew Carlson, Steven Jans, Carol Marr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young APICS Professional Membership Awards</td>
<td>Andrew Hofmann, Brandon Nierhoff, Graham Szymanski</td>
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Our sincere thanks go to all those who contribute to scholarship funds. The scholarships are very important and help motivate our students. If you would like to support the department’s scholarship program, contact OM&IS Chair Chang Liu at 815-753-3021 or cliu@niu.edu.

## Classroom Meets the Business World

Each semester the OM&IS department offers a course in managing business projects (OMIS 352). To bring the classroom lectures into the context of the real world, student teams organize and manage projects designed to help members of their community. This spring marked another successful semester for student community projects. One such project was the “Healing Hustle,” a 5k run where proceeds went to the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that provides services to severely injured veterans during their transition to civilian life. The successful completion of this project resulted in a donation of over $1,300, as well as a fun time for all the participants of the race. Another successful project this semester was an electronics recycling drive carried out by “Team Honey Badger.” This project resulted in the collection of over 70,000 pounds of electronic scrap, which translated to a $3,000 donation to Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that helps provide affordable housing to people in need. Overall, the student projects helped to provide food, clothing, and other resources to many worthwhile causes in the DeKalb community.

## Top Recruit – Feedback from an OM&IS Alumnus

David Lipien, Engagement Manager at Microsoft Corporation, presented "Key Job Skills" at the OM&IS Executive Advisory Council meeting on April 29, 2012. David is a 1998 OM&IS graduate. The key job skills he shared are:

1. Leadership and Taking Ownership
2. Creativity and Creative Problem Solving Skills
3. Adaptability
4. Drive to Achieve
5. Teamwork and Collaboration
6. Business Analytical Skills
7. Communication Skills
8. Professionalism

This list is in no particular order, but these are the desirable characteristics/skills that employers look for during the recruitment process. They are also the capabilities OM&IS students have the opportunity to develop through the learning process.

Our current students and faculty like to know that the department is on the right track. If you would like to make suggestions on how the programs might improve, contact OM&IS Chair Chang Liu at 815-753-3021 or cliu@niu.edu.