The Path To New Beginnings

A review of leadership changes as three NIU faculty become deans, including:

Denise Schoenbachler
Dean, NIU College of Business
beginning July 2006
If there is one term that best exemplifies the natural condition of our current College of Business, it is change. Change is often dreaded, but it is vital for individuals and organizations to thrive and move forward. Moving into unknown territory has risks, but risks must be taken to realize our full potential. Individuals and institutions cannot achieve new levels of excellence without changing—it is both a blessing and a curse. The manner in which we manage and react to change says much about us, both as individuals and as a college.

It is my distinct pleasure to share with you in this issue of Business Network the many changes that are occurring in our college. A most visible change has been our improvement in the U.S. News and World Report rankings. Our outreach to our alumni and the regional business community has been enhanced by our efforts to bring nationally known speakers to campus. We continue to better serve our learners at all stages of their academic careers by improving our programs and expanding their accessibility to broader regions of our service area. Our focus continues to be on ensuring that our curriculums evolve with the changing needs of business.

Changes in the personnel of our college have also occurred in significant ways. We bid farewell to a retiring dean and are welcoming a new dean. We have a new associate dean and three of the five academic departments will have new leaders. We welcome many new faculty and staff while we wish many others happy transitions and retirements, thanking them for their loyalty and their many years of service to our college. I, personally, will experience my own state of change as I move to a new deanship at another institution.

I truly hope that you enjoy this issue of Business Network and that you get a sense for how our college is changing, in many ways for the better. We have learned to embrace change and to leverage it to move our college to increasingly higher levels of excellence. I take pride in our accomplishments and in all of our efforts to ensure that our student experience is one where the classroom meets the business world.

I wish you the best in your future endeavors, and I thank you for your continued support of our College of Business.

Sincerely,

William J. Tallon
Interim Dean
July 2005-June 2006
FEATURES

4 COVER FOCUS:
The Path to New Beginnings . . . From a review of leadership changes college-wide—new deans and new departmental chairs—to the college’s first-ever hosting of nationally known keynote speakers

16 Headliners
Distinguished and Honorary Alumni Award Recipients
Northern Illinois University College of Business

18 Faculty and Student Perspectives

SECTIONS

IFC Dean’s Desk

In Brief: NIU College of Business News

Persons, Places

Alumni Focus
NIU Executive Club Gala
Alumni Newsmakers
Alumni Notes
2005 Alumni Gatherings

Up and Coming
2006 Alumni Events; 2006 M.B.A. Events

Financial Stakeholders

Northern Illinois University College of Business Faculty

In Memoriam

Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, disability, status based on the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran. Further, the Constitution and Bylaws of Northern Illinois University provides for equal treatment regardless of political views or affiliation, and sexual orientation. Produced by the Northern Illinois University Offices of Publications and Document Services. Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.

www.niu.edu 5/06 33772

Business Network is published on an annual basis.

Postmaster: send address changes to:
Office of the Dean
Northern Illinois University
College of Business
Barsema Hall 139
DeKalb, IL 60115
NIU Switchboard: (815) 753-1000

NIU Media Imaging Photography by: Scott Walstrom, George Tarbay (B.A.’71, M.S.Ed.’84), and Don Butler (B.A.’71, M.S.Ed.’03)
Cover Focus
...New Beginnings

Transition \ tran(t)s-ˈish-n, tranz-, chiefly Brit tran(t)s-ˈizh-\n1 a: passage from one state, stage, or place to another: CHANGE 1 b: a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another (The Merriam-Webster Dictionary).
Denise Schoenbachler, currently chair of the Department of Marketing, will become dean of the college on July 1, 2006, concluding a year-long national search. Simultaneously pragmatic and creative, Schoenbachler views life both in the moment and with an eye toward innovation. This dual capability complements the college’s solid work ethic and future-mindedness. And Schoenbachler’s background reflects not only the importance of living in the moment but also the benefits of viewing life through multiple perspectives.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Schoenbachler is the youngest of four, following two older brothers and an older sister. With a handful of doctoral degrees in her extended family, scholarly pursuit is in Schoenbachler’s blood. An uncle was a Ph.D. professor at Princeton, Yale, and Berkeley; another uncle completed a Ph.D. in chemistry; and a grandfather was a Ph.D. faculty member at the University of Nebraska. Despite the many doctoral degrees in her extended family, the decision to earn a Ph.D. in business came later for Schoenbachler.

Trading in the fast pace of the east coast for the southern charm of Kentucky, Schoenbachler entered the University of Louisville and, in 1982, completed her B.S.B.A. (with emphases in finance and management). Schoenbachler returned to the University of Louisville with a goal of career advancement, and earned her M.B.A. degree in 1988. But during her M.B.A. experience, Schoenbachler made the choice to put a career on hold while she and her husband, John, began having their family. While raising two children, Schoenbachler continued her M.B.A. studies on a part-time basis. It was then that the idea of teaching at the college level appealed to Denise, due in large part to Louisville management professor Lisle Sussman.

Mesmerized by his lectures in what was considered a very difficult course, Schoenbachler realized how “….a tough and highly intelligent professor could challenge students’ thinking, open up minds, and make you want to learn.” The experience motivated Denise to enter the University of Kentucky for her doctorate, which she completed with an emphasis in marketing in 1992. On the heels of earning her Ph.D., Schoenbachler relocated from the metropolitan charm of Louisville to the cornfields of DeKalb and began her NIU career, first as a marketing professor in 1992, then as marketing department chair in 2002, to dean beginning July 2006.

“Before I signed on with NIU, I recall going back to the hotel after my interview, calling my mother, and telling her that I really loved it here. The college, the university, the community area…all of it just felt like a natural fit. The Midwest has strong values that are compatible with mine. Midwesterners are very tied to their families and to their roots. The Midwest is...”

Continued on page 6
friendly with a very strong work ethic. NIU students reflect this; they are hard workers.”

Schoenbachler speaks rapidly with unfurled energy and listens attentively to follow-up questions, displaying the east coast intensity and the heartland sensibilities that are both her nature. Whether she's recounting a 14-plus year career built at NIU, the pride she has in her daughter and son (who she hugged on stage when he received his NIU diploma last December), the huge influence her father (“…a quiet and natural leader…”) had in her life, the animals she raises on her 5-acre farmette, mind-transcending horse rides with her 11-year-old horse Ebony and Ivory Lady, or her plans and dreams for NIU’s College of Business, Schoenbachler’s serious commitment is obvious throughout. And still, she laughs often, inviting you into the whole person—fast-paced, unpretentious, metropolitan, serious, laugh-loving, devoted wife and mother, practical, and forward-thinking—who is soon to be NIU’s College of Business Dean … Denise Schoenbachler.

What are the most crucial challenges facing education in general today?
This generation of students is more diverse ethnically and equally more diverse in how they approach learning. Technology has thrown down the “adapt or die” gauntlet before both companies and academia, which means academia needs to remain proactive with—and not reactive to—change. For business education, one of the most crucial challenges is the recruitment and retention of quality faculty. It’s a very competitive marketplace; for many schools, good faculty members are being hired away. And a smaller pool of Ph.D. candidates coupled with increased demand has created salary inversion. Another challenge is a change in learning styles.

What do you perceive to be the biggest challenge facing the college?
The biggest challenge is establishing independent sources of funding endowments so that we can continue to go after projects that make us better, and so we can get faculty recruitment, development, and support to the numbers we really need.

And the college’s greatest advantage?
NIU faculty, staff, and students are so enthused and excited; they have such incredible energy to tap into and harness. Our alumni base is strong and getting stronger as our college grows. Our location near Chicago offers many opportunities for us to create ground-breaking collaborations and learning situations.

You have a passion for this college and for horses. In what way are the two alike?
Both have incredible intelligence, an unbreakable free spirit, an amazing work ethic. Both have a tremendous amount of energy that—when it’s directed and rewarded—can be truly incredible.

You’re the first female dean in NIU’s College of Business. Is this a non-issue, or do you wish to comment?
Academia traditionally has been male-dominated, although women are increasingly participating. Still, it’s worth mentioning that across the country, only 12% of all AACSB deans are women. So there's room for growth, but at the same time, 12% is higher than it had been. I remember when it was only 2%. So, we're seeing women serve in more leadership capacities. NIU provides a great example. Here, women step up to more leadership roles, due in large part to their capabilities but also to NIU’s commitment to diversity and to developing diversity.

What leadership qualities do you most admire?
Integrity, ethical business practice, developing trust and having trust, the ability to understand that leadership means being successful only when your team and organization are successful. When your area does well, then the leader wins. A good leader shirks off their own self-interest because the interest of the organization becomes more important than the self.

Describe your immediate plans or priorities as dean.
My immediate plans are to engage in conversation with college stakeholders. This includes brief interviews with everyone in the college to learn their dreams, goals, and ideas. I will be very proactive visiting alumni. I also will meet with each member of the college’s Board of Executive Advisors to learn how we can deepen our working relationship. Fundraising will be a greater focus for the college. We'll engage in more marketing communications with our stakeholders and alumni.

“Denise is a superb choice to lead the College of Business,” NIU Provost Ivan Legg said. “We looked at candidates from across the country. Ultimately, however, it was clear to the search committee that it was Denise who had the best skills and proper temperament to lead the college.”
You’re known to be innovative with course content and cross-disciplinary collaborations. In this regard, do you foresee any new directions the college might pursue?

I see collaborative opportunities growing across the college. So our students will learn the fundamental business acumen but through these collaborative efforts learn how to apply business concepts in wide and varied contexts … for example, students could learn from a finance professor and a management professor who work together on projects, in course work, or in specific classes. NIU Internet2 opens up wonderful opportunities for us to bring the world here. Internet2 allows academic and corporate partners to share research, classrooms, business issues, and provides the ability to tap into professors/courses from any participating institution. But more immediately—in fact, this summer—the college will join another cross-college collaboration…this time, for a movie project. For this project, liberal arts majors will write the screenplay, visual performance majors will act, and our business majors will track the financials and develop the marketing and distribution elements associated with both movie making and release.

And longer term…how will the college look within five years?

By 2011, I’d like to see a college that is ranked within the top 20% of all AACSB accredited business colleges and that is financially secure to pursue dreams and worthwhile endeavors, with faculty energies reorganized in both the academic and professional arenas. I want the college to be known across campus as “a great place to work.” I’d like the college to attract students in the top 10%, and when they’re here, I’d like the college to provide numerous opportunities for them to engage in internships, international and global experiences, mentorships, and leadership activities.

What makes you hit the floor running first thing in the morning?

I can run 24/7 telling the NIU story. I am always very excited to hear the NIU story from our alumni, business partners, and students. NIU's strength comes from its people—all of them, internal and external, past, present, future. I love putting together the puzzle—talking with college stakeholders about their dreams, goals, ideas, and synthesizing those communications into a worthwhile and innovative direction. I get so excited helping people develop and grow.

When you interact with NIU College of Business alumni, what message do you want to convey?

Alumni are very important to the college. I want alumni to know that I am, and will remain, open to them … that I intend to engage in ongoing conversations with them of their hopes and dreams for their alma mater. I want to learn how they want to be engaged and involved with us. I share an affinity with our alumni in that NIU and this college are both very personal to me. I've built my career here; my children are going to school here. Like our alumni, I take the success of NIU and the college very seriously. And like our alumni, I will always remain committed to this college and its ongoing success.

“We are extremely fortunate to have an individual like Denise to lead the college,” said Barbara Giorgi Vella, chair of the NIU Board of Trustees. “Her energy, her enthusiasm and her commitment to scholarship will serve the college well.”
The Once and Future Dean

By Michelle De Jean

The number 22 is magic for undergraduates, who usually complete a bachelor's degree by that age. For William Tallon, his NIU experience—collectively a 22-year run—is also magic... not only for graduating but also for being dean and a host of roles in between. Prior to becoming Northern's current business dean, Tallon wore nearly every college stakeholder hat imaginable: undergraduate student, business professional, graduate student, graduate assistant, alumnus, departmental faculty member, departmental chair, associate dean, dean, and, as importantly, parent to children who also attended NIU. Indeed, few have viewed the school from so many vantage points. But in July 2006, Tallon eyes new sites at Western Kentucky University, where he was selected first out of 80 candidates to serve as dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business.

In step with William Tallon at the NIU College of Business

1970—NIU Freshman
1974—B.S. Management
1978—Graduate Assistant
1979—M.B.A.
1990—Assistant Professor, Operations Management and Information Systems
1992—Departmental Chair, Operations Management and Information Systems
2001, 2003—Tallon’s two children enroll as NIU students
2001—Associate Dean
2005—Dean

Long gone are the days when the CEO began his career in the mailroom and worked his way up to the helm of the organization. This describes the ultimate “company man,” who draws upon capability and talent, unabashed tenacity and lifetime commitment to sketch an all-encompassing career arc in one organization. Add to that mix an uncanny sense of timing with the ability to make the most of it.

Although he was successful in business, the urge to teach had taken hold of Tallon years earlier, thanks to the strong impression made by two of his business professors, now retired, Ahmed Rifai and Steve Hallam.

"Ahmed and Steve, in separate instances, often talked with me when I was a student. At that time, I wondered what it was like..."

On Education

I have always advocated the Golden Rule; I value the importance of giving back so that others can enjoy what I have enjoyed. Sharing knowledge and experience with a new generation of business professionals is very rewarding to me.
to be a professor. Their enthusiasm and commitment to teaching and learning was more than evident. It was contagious. It always stayed with me.”

Indeed, after five years as project lead in IT consulting and after calling more hotels “home” than he could remember, Tallon began to soul-search, looking for a career that spoke more fully to him. In 1979, he found it and enrolled in the University of Iowa’s doctorate program. Soon afterwards, Bill landed his first faculty position at the University of Virginia, where he taught operations management and decision systems.

Then in 1990, Bill’s NIU experience came full circle. A full 20 years after he had first arrived in DeKalb as a freshman, he returned to NIU’s College of Business as an assistant professor in the Department of Operations Management and Information Systems (OM&IS). His return was championed by the same professors who worked with Bill during his days as a student… only this time, the professors lobbied NIU’s business dean to hire Bill to stand alongside them as a faculty member in his own right. Within two years of his return, Tallon rose to the position of OM&IS department chair, this, with the full support of the faculty members who, 20 years earlier, had been his teachers and mentors.

As chair for nine years, Tallon guided the department through a period of explosive growth. At that time, the IT field was red hot, but in academia it was often taught in silos and in business, often practiced the same way. Tallon seized the opportunity to create a holistic view of the field. He developed alliances with outside firms and worked closely with faculty to take the specialized areas of statistics, IT, and operations and make the department a cohesive whole. The result: ComputerWorld magazine ranked the program 19th best nationwide and departmental enrollments grew from 46 students when he took over in 1992 to more than 400 OM&IS majors when he stepped down as chair to become associate dean in 2001. Flash forward four more years, and in fall 2005, with the retirement of David Graf, the college’s former dean, Bill Tallon took on the mantle of NIU College of Business dean.

Dean Bill Tallon is an affable man with a serious mind, a ready smile, a devotion to family, a love of country music and a good, clean joke, a passion to make a positive impact in students’ lives and the lives of those around him, an inclination to regard change as an asset, and a predisposition to work hard and play hard. In hearing him describe his NIU experience, one cannot help but note the loyalty between the man and the institution, the institution and the man. When asked to identify the common thread running through NIU’s College of Business given the many vantage points he has had, Tallon doesn’t hesitate. “I always felt NIU has a genuine interest in making sure students succeed, both in the classroom and in their careers. Not only are faculty accessible to students, they go the extra mile to help students master the material through a number of activities such as pre/post-class content review and targeted study sessions,” he says. “After students graduate, faculty remain concerned and involved by staying in touch to talk through workplace challenges, provide references for jobs or even share job leads. Faculty desire to help students doesn’t stop when a student gets the degree,” Tallon notes. “I speak of this firsthand. I’m honored to have been on both sides of that equation.”

Clearly evident is the high regard in which Dean Tallon holds NIU’s College of Business faculty. They made a genuine difference in his life when he was a student and again when he was at a crossroads in his professional life. But without a doubt the person who had the greatest influence in his life was his father.

The youngest of five boys, Bill grew up outside of Kankakee (Illinois) in a farm town of 300 where most of the residents never went to college. Early on, life presented its hardships. Bill’s mother passed away when he was five years old, and his older brother, who was born with physical and mental disabilities, also passed away at a young age. Continued on page 10
“My father created a very loving family for all of us. We laughed a lot. He taught us to never give up. By his actions and the values he instilled, I learned that regardless of the adversity one faces, good things can still happen if you work hard and do the right thing.”

And good things have happened for William J. Tallon. In July 2006, he becomes dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business at Western Kentucky University (WKU). What began as a harmless inquiry from a Dallas search firm evolved into Tallon’s full emersion into the search process. WKU liked what they saw: Bill Tallon was the university’s first pick out of 80 candidates nationwide. Still, leaving his interim dean post at NIU to fill the permanent dean slot at WKU invokes some reflective moments. “After 16 years as a faculty member, leaving NIU is somewhat bittersweet, but I am ready for new experiences and challenges. I am happy this opportunity to become a permanent dean at another excellent institution has become available to me.”

Ironically, Dean Tallon’s approach to work and life perfectly reflects WKU’s phrase, “The Spirit Makes the Master.” Because Tallon views change as a good thing, he views the leadership changes at NIU’s College of Business—brought about by a mix of outside opportunities and retirements—to bring with it not only new perspectives but also new potential.

“Our success as a college will be determined precisely by the way we manage change to the benefit of the college. If each unit in the college continues to work together on the future and approach change as a positive, then the college will carve out an even more wonderful destiny.”

And even though he’ll soon view NIU from afar in Kentucky, we know Dean Tallon—NIU alumnus himself and parent of NIU alumni, former faculty member and business dean—will be among the first to applaud the unfolding of a bold future for his alma mater...just as his NIU colleagues, friends, and former students applaud Tallon’s many contributions and what is sure to be his outstanding future at WKU.

On Being Dean at WKU

There were many aspects to this opportunity that seemed predestined. I’ve been very active with curriculum renewal, experiential learning; Western has an entrepreneurship center. They’ve momentum going with a healthy endowment and a new building on the horizon. I find it very rewarding I was their first choice to provide leadership to them.
Returning Home a Dean
Greg Carnes
NIU Department of Accountancy Chair 1999-2005
By Michelle De Jean

In 1999, Gregory Carnes joined the ranks of NIU College of Business accountancy department chairs, following in the footsteps of a line of outstanding predecessors, many of whom were nationally and internationally regarded. Year 2006 brings new horizons—both personally and professionally—for Carnes, who moved back to his hometown area of Nashville, Tennessee, to begin his tenure as the business college dean at Lipscomb University. Following is a conversation with Greg of his experiences as an NIU professor and accountancy department chair.

Why did you become a teacher/scholar?
I always enjoyed academia…that’s not something you admit to your friends when you’re young (laughter). As an undergraduate at Lipscomb University and a master’s student at the University of Memphis, some very good faculty members influenced me. They helped me to see academia as a profession where you can help people. When I decided to leave the public accounting profession to pursue my Ph.D., it was something that felt natural…it’s exactly what I should be doing. It’s a powerful thing to positively impact others’ lives. Recently, I worked with a student who happens to come from a very challenging, difficult background. This student made the commitment to work very hard to make something of himself. It’s fulfilling to help create an environment where those students who come here, work hard, and really make an effort know they have the support and resources around them to help better themselves.

Where do you get your motivation?
My parents. They instilled values of giving your best. They also taught me the importance of giving back. I don’t believe we are here on earth to serve only ourselves or to see who can accumulate the most toys. My parents instilled a strong set of core values—integrity, work ethic, honesty, respect—which has provided a strong foundation for my life.

When you took on the chair of accountancy, most people knew of the Keiso-Delaney legacy. Was it a hard act to follow?
I did feel pressure to try to maintain the department’s excellent reputation. Keiso and Delaney are so well known by the entire accounting profession. They’ve written textbooks in use around the world. After I was approached by then-dean David Graf and

Continued on page 12
by then-chair Pat Delaney, I thought quite a bit about the decision to become the next chair. A faculty colleague told me, “Opportunities often come up only once.” I never forgot that. And I recognized it as a great opportunity and a great honor…stepping into the legacy built by chairs such as Don Keiso, John Engstrom, John Smith, and Pat Delaney.

After you took on the mantle, what was your biggest challenge?

The transition in faculty. When I became chair in 1999, the department saw the retirement of five senior faculty members, all of whom had shaped the department and curriculum over many years. They truly established a legacy of excellence. What made it challenging was finding good people to replenish our faculty pool. At that time, the overall market for accounting professors was pretty thin.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

Hiring excellent faculty, as challenging as it was to find them, and trying to lead the department through transitional issues. When I first arrived at NIU in 1994, 10 faculty members had been in the department 25 years or more. Between them, they possessed an incredibly long organizational memory of the very core of NIU’s accountancy department. When I became chair, it was critically important to somehow capture and transfer more than 250 years, collectively, of organizational memory to new, gifted faculty so that the core of the department kept moving forward.

And yet through all of those deep transitions, some would say the accountancy program ranked the highest it’s been.

The accountancy program ranked 26th-25th in the nation for three years in a row by U.S. News & World Report. Public Accounting Report ranked our undergraduate program in the top 20 for the last 18 years, and in 2005, they ranked our graduate program 10th nationally. Our CPA exam pass rate has also consistently been one of the best in the nation.

How do you feel about the rankings?

They provide external validation, which is always welcome. And at the same time, I always take the position that regardless of the rankings, our focus is to provide a quality education.

Any advice for keeping NIU’s accountancy program one of the best in the nation?

The program has carried a strong reputation for the past 30 years because the core of it has never veered. NIU’s accountancy program combines excellent teaching—which results in excellent students—with faculty who are respected nationally for teaching, research, and involvement with the profession. Our faculty are more engaged with the profession than any other accounting faculty in the country. They hold leadership positions at the national level within numerous professional organizations. Companies—both in Chicago and around the country—facing complex situations routinely ask for our faculty input. They also ask our faculty to provide expert witness testimony in court cases. I don’t know of many other accountancy programs in the country that receive as many calls as we do from companies looking for assistance. And our faculty bring those experiences back into the classroom to the students at all levels: undergraduate, graduate, and in certification programs like the CPA Review, CMA Review, and CIA Review.

What’s on the horizon for you personally?

In January 2006, I’ll be dean of Lipscomb University’s College of Business in Nashville, Tennessee. Lipscomb is evolving from primarily a liberal arts focus to being a comprehensive university. Lipscomb has high expectations for its business college. Personally, leading a college will be a challenge—different from leading a department—but it’s a challenge I look forward to meeting. Much like stepping into the shoes of all the great NIU accountancy chairs was a challenge. I enjoy challenges. Lipscomb is also my undergraduate alma mater, which makes this a special opportunity. And I’ll be going back home. I’m originally from Chattanooga. My family and my wife Jan’s family are all in central and eastern Tennessee. Nashville is a great city. In fact, Jan and I have always said of all the cities Nashville is our favorite; it’s just a great place to live. Jan and I have really enjoyed the Midwest. Living in the surrounding Chicago-area, working at NIU in one of the top accountancy programs and in a very well regarded business school has been a great experience, but the Midwest is not home…not to mention the winters (laughter).

What remembrances of NIU will be on your desk at Lipscomb?

One of them will definitely be a special NIU football. In November (2005), the Accountancy Executive Advisory Council (made up of business executives) presented an NIU football to me, signed by this year’s team members. Josh Haldi (ACCY ’04)—previously the NIU quarterback for three years—had a hand in getting all the current NIU football players to sign it. It was quite a surprise and a real treasure. The other remembrance will be an item the NIU accountancy faculty presented to me. It’s a very nice crystal memento thanking me for my years at NIU. Both the football and the crystal piece have the NIU logo on it. Both will look great on my desk at Lipscomb.
Daniel Wunsch, Interim Associate Dean

In summer 2005, Dan was promoted to interim associate dean of the College of Business, replacing Bill Tallon, who was promoted to interim dean. Previously, Wunsch had served as chair of the Department of Management (1989-2005), during which time he also led the development of an International Business Seminar program. Daniel received his B.S. and M.S. in business administration from the University of Wisconsin; he completed his Ph.D. in education/management from the University of California. Wunsch has been a faculty member with the Northern Illinois University College of Business since 1980.

Sarah Marsh, Chair of the Department of Management

Formerly an NIU faculty member, Sarah became management department chair in summer 2005, replacing Dan Wunsch. In addition to her administrative duties, Marsh serves as faculty advisor for the Society for the Advancement of Management. She has provided leadership training consulting, acted as moderator during academic conferences, and served as ad hoc reviewer for journals. Sarah received her M.B.A. as well as her Ph.D. in strategic management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her B.A. in economics and French from Grinnell College. Marsh has been a faculty member with the Northern Illinois University College of Business since 1997.

James Young, Chair of the Department of Accountancy, Crowe Chizek Professor of Accountancy

Jim moved from the faculty ranks and into the college's administrative ranks when he became accountancy department chair in January 2006, replacing Greg Carnes. Along with his faculty duties, Young has served as educational consultant, in separate years, to Ernst & Young and BDO Seidman. Among his numerous activities with the profession, Young has served on the Model Tax Curriculum Task Force of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He has also contributed to the Wall Street Journal's Tax Report column as a subject-matter expert. Jim earned his B.S. in accounting from Ferris State University and his M.B.A. as well as his Ph.D. in accounting from Michigan State University. Young has been a faculty member with the Northern Illinois University College of Business since 2000.
National Speakers Circuit

For the first time, the college hosted nationally known keynote speakers who are renowned in their fields. Collectively, these distinguished presenters drew more than 1,000 attendees from across the college, university, the college’s alumni base, and the Chicago and Rockford-area business communities.

April 7, 2005, Keynote Address: What Happened and What’s Next. Brothers David and Tom Gardner are dedicated to educating, amusing and enriching individuals in search of financial truth. The brothers derived their company name from a tradition in Elizabethan drama where only the court Jester—The Fool—could tell the king the truth without losing his head. In that spirit, they founded The Motley Fool, a leading financial media company that uses today’s latest technology, including an award-winning website, to revolutionize investing. The Motley Fool is a private company with investors such as AOL Time Warner Ventures, Maveron, Mayfield Fund, and Softbank Finance. The Motley Fool speaking engagement was sponsored by the college’s Graduate Colloquium Series and the NIU Executive Club.

Steven Levitt, University of Chicago professor of economics and co-author of Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything. Levitt has achieved notoriety by looking at the field of economics through a different lens. Freakonomics explores Levitt’s unconventional wisdom and has been on the New York Times bestseller list since May 2005. On September 24, 2005, Levitt explored the “...stuff and riddles of everyday life... (Freakonomics inside front jacket)” with first-year Executive M.B.A. students and attended their student group review of his book. Levitt’s classroom appearance was sponsored by the college’s Graduate Colloquium Series and the Department of Marketing.

Cynthia Cooper, Time Magazine’s 2002 Co-Person of the Year and most well-known for her role in uncovering corporate fraud at WorldCom.
October 12, 2005, keynote address: Ethics in Today’s Business World: Lessons Learned from WorldCom. Until July 2004, Ms. Cooper served as the chief audit executive for MCI. Along with receiving Time Magazine’s Person of the Year designation, Ms. Cooper has received numerous awards for her extraordinary contributions to educating the public about economics, business, and finance. Ms. Cooper’s speaking engagement was co-sponsored by the college’s Graduate Colloquium Series, Department of Accountancy, and Department of Operations Management and Information Systems.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

IT’S NOT THE LAW. BUT IT SHOULD BE.

We salute Northern Illinois University for its commitment to providing quality education.
Craig Funkhouser (B.S. ACCY 1979)

2005 Distinguished Alumnus – NIU College of Business

Craig Funkhouser is delivery unit executive-in-charge of the Assurance Services Practice Group at Crowe Chizek and Company LLC. In this capacity, Craig is responsible for the supervision of audit engagements with a concentration in manufacturers, distributors, and other commercial entities, as well as for the sales and marketing activities for Crowe Chizek’s Illinois Business Assurance Unit. In addition to audit engagements, Craig has spent a significant part of his career assisting companies with their merger and acquisition activities. Also, Craig coordinates the on-campus recruiting effort for Crowe Chizek’s Oak Brook office. He has served on many firm-wide committees including the Executive Screening Committee, New Partner Screen Committee, Value Creation Committee, Audit Efficiency Task Force, Audit Reengineering Committee, and the Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee.

Craig is actively involved in a variety of community organizations. He is a charter member and a board member of the Northern Illinois University Executive Club, a College of Business alumni club. An avid golfer, Craig serves as chairman of the Executive Club’s annual golf outing. He is the Greens Committee chairman and a board member of the Naperville Country Club. Craig is also active in fundraising activities for the Naperville Central High School Booster Club Annual Golf Outing. Previously, Craig served as a member of the Northern Illinois University Accountancy Executive Advisory Council and DePaul University’s Visiting Advisory Committee for its accountancy department. Craig’s community activities include serving as the president, treasurer, and board member of the Naperville Jaycees, as well as finance committee chairman for the Little Friends’ Annual Benefit Auction. Craig is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society.

Janyce Fadden (M.B.A. 1984)

2005 Distinguished Alumnus – Rockford Area

Janyce Fadden, president of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council, has been named the Northern Illinois University College of Business Rockford Area Alumnus of the Year for 2005. Fadden was selected from a pool of candidates nominated by local alumni of the college and evaluated by the board of the NIU College of Business Rockford Area Alumni Club.

Fadden, who earned her M.B.A. at NIU in 1984, has been a longtime leader in the Rockford business community, serving at various times as president, vice president, and general manager for firms such as Honeywell, General Signal, Applied Power, Pacific Scientific, and Danaher. She assumed her current post, leading the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC), in June of 2004, directing the organization’s efforts aimed at business retention, expansion, and recruitment.

“Janyce has always been a valued member of the Rockford business community, and her leadership of the RAEDC has energized efforts to strengthen and improve the business climate in Rockford. She is a very worthy recipient of this award,” said Paul Green, president of the NIU College of Business Rockford Area Alumni Club. The award was presented to Fadden at the NIU Rockford Executive Lecture Series on October 19, 2005.

–Joe King, NIU Public Affairs
David Graf (former NIU College of Business Dean)

2005 Honorary Alumnus – NIU College of Business

David Graf’s 28-year tenure as an NIU College of Business faculty member has seen him as classroom professor, student coach, faculty mentor, alumni friend, departmental chair, associate dean, acting dean, and dean. No matter the role, Graf’s commitment to NIU’s College of Business remains constant, as evidenced by several college-changing initiatives he put in place during his 12-year tenure as NIU’s business dean:

• Adoption of an all-inclusive strategic planning process in use within major corporations [strategic planning methodology created and facilitated by NIU alumnus John Matson (B.S. MGMT 1963), retired senior vice president of Johnson & Johnson]. Graf’s unwavering commitment to the planning process over a 12-year period resulted in many positive outcomes, most notably the design, building, and occupancy in two years of the college’s world-class facility, Barsema Hall.

• Cross-functional undergraduate business course, modeled after graduate programs that integrate the principles of finance, management, marketing, and operations. In place since 1996, this course gives NIU’s business college the distinction of being one of the first business schools in the nation to put undergraduates through the paces of a course typically reserved for graduate students.

• A borderless college community created through several organizations such as the NIU College of Business Strategic Planning Council, the NIU Executive Club, the Rockford Area Business Alumni Club, the NIU Board of Executive Advisors, the NIU College of Business Student Steering Committee, and the NIU College of Business Staff Council.

• Expanded academic programs including the undergraduate Business Careers House, the finance portfolio management class, the Experiential Learning Center, numerous professional certification review programs, the Direct Marketing Program, the Sales Lab, and the Human Resources program.

For his contributions toward elevating the college to new prominence, NIU’s College of Business is pleased to count David Graf as one of its own.

– Michelle De Jean, Marketing Director
Perseverance and humbleness. It is through persistence that we succeed. If you have too much ego or think you know everything, you will tend to stop learning and stop succeeding. Paraphrasing Frederick Douglass (advisor to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War), measure yourself not by the heights which you have climbed, but by the depths from which you have come.

Diane Docking, Ph.D. professor of finance

I believe individuals become successful in business through hard work, organization, and determination. They must be well-rounded.

Sarah Johnson junior, management

A strong work ethic and the integrity to do what is right. Complete the necessary work and report the results with integrity. Let the facts stand for themselves. Remember, if you tell the truth now, it’s easier to remember what you said later.

Debra Hopkins, CPA, CIA director, Northern Illinois University CPA Review

To manage without fear. Identify the worst outcome of any decision you need to make, conclude you will live through it, and stop worrying about it.

James Johnson, Ph.D. professor of finance

Dedication and commitment are two crucial traits. The willingness and ability to work well with others is important, too.

Isaura Guerrero junior, accountancy

In today’s business world, people who succeed do so because they solve problems. These problems may center on how best to help their customers, others within their firm, or others within their supply chain. Often times, many problems—caused by competition, government regulations, personnel issues, for example—are really opportunities for an individual, team, or firm to demonstrate their ability to add value.

Charles Petersen, Ph.D. professor of operations management and information systems

I believe the most essential trait in business is trustworthiness. It is extremely important for clients to be able to rely on you, and for them and your coworkers to know you will do your job correctly and with integrity.

Elizabeth Dombek junior, B.S.B.A.

Hard work and good communication skills. Being approachable to others is important as well.

Todd Peterson senior, marketing

Character is the critical trait needed to be successful. Character is your core values, beliefs, integrity, work ethic, and attitude. Peter Schutz (former president and CEO of Porsche) sums it up in two sentences: “Hire character. Train skill.” Skills can be taught to those who want to learn. Character cannot be taught.

Pam Smith, Ph.D. KPMG professor of accountancy

The ability to keep organized and a daily commitment to work hard sets an individual apart from others. An individual must be willing to practice both company and personal ethics, too.

Erin Weinberg senior, marketing

In the short term, different businesses require different skills, knowledge, and traits at different times. In the long term, the most essential management skill is the ability to develop and maintain a powerful collective mindset around a winning and flexible competitive strategy that elicits the best of every manager and employee and drives every decision within an organization.

Luis Flores associate professor of management

The key to a successful business person is their ability to build relationships, because people do business with people.

Bryan Turner junior, accountancy

If you would like to share your answer to this question, please send an e-mail to HuskieBusiness@niu.edu. In the subject line, type “Business Network Perspective.” Within the e-mail, include your response to the question, your full name, title, firm, year of graduation, and major. We will include as many replies as possible in the spring 2007 issue of Business Network.
In Brief College News


NIU’s College of Business overall placed among the top 29% best undergraduate business programs in the nation, ranking 116 out of the 404 accredited undergraduate business programs reviewed by *U.S. News.*

**Venture Grant Award.** In spring 2005, the college’s *Experiential Learning Center (ELC)* received a $16,000 Venture Grant Award to be applied to firm-specific student team projects; the Venture Grant Award is an annual grant designed to foster innovative learning experiences. The ELC facilitates a “thinking and doing” learning environment where student teams apply their learning and imagination to solve actual business issues faced by actual firms. ELC student participants earn course credit for their efforts and receive guidance from business faculty throughout the semester-long project duration. In spring-fall 2005, the Venture Grant dollars supported ELC student team projects with The Village of Forest Park, EigerLabs, Ag Tech, and the Mental Health Association RRV.

**William and Dian Taylor Endowed Excellence in Accountancy Scholarship.** The Department of Accountancy is pleased to announce the establishment of the *William and Dian Taylor Endowed Excellence in Accountancy Scholarship.* When fully funded, it will provide a full tuition scholarship for two undergraduate accountancy majors each year. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must receive their associate’s degree from Illinois Valley Community College and plan to major in accountancy at NIU. Both Bill and Dian began their academic studies at Illinois Valley Community College and then transferred to NIU. Bill received his B.S. in accountancy from NIU and Dian her B.S. in mathematics. Dian also earned an M.B.A. degree from NIU. Through their generous efforts, Bill and Dian found a unique way to support the two educational institutions that have meant so much to them.

**The Journal of Selling and Major Account Management.** On the thought-leadership front, the Professional Sales Program—housed in the college’s Department of Marketing—now publishes *The Journal of Selling and Major Account Management.* As one of only two journals in the world dedicated to the topic of sales, *Selling and Major Account Management* features academic articles as well as pieces written by sales practitioners.

**Sales Call Center.** In the classroom, the Professional Sales Program established a call center for sales students to develop and refine their inside sales skills. For additional information on all Professional Sales Program activities, contact Dan Weilbaker, Philip Morris USA professor of marketing, (815) 753-6216, dweilbak@niu.edu.

**Public Accounting Report’s rankings.** The NIU undergraduate accountancy program ranked 11th in the 2005 *Public Accounting Report* evaluation of best accounting programs nationwide. NIU’s accountancy undergraduate program has ranked in the top 20 for the past 18 years, and this year, its graduate accountancy program ranked 10th best.

**Uniform Certified Public Accountant’s Exam.** Based on students’ performance on the Uniform Certified Public Accountant’s (CPA) Exam, *NIU’s Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Review Program* ranked within the top 10 universities, tying for ninth place against 900 other schools nationwide. This represents the 15th time NIU’s accountancy program ranked in the top 10. Year 2005 marks the first time NIU’s accountancy program was the only Illinois university to make the ranking.
Speaking from Experience

More than 70 business professionals and visiting academicians per year, on average, share their expertise with Northern’s business students in the classroom or through other special events. Throughout the year, the college also hosts several keynote presentations and panel discussions which are open to all NIU College of Business friends, students, and faculty. Here are some guest speaker highlights from 2005:

Chris Begley (M.B.A. 1977), CEO of Hospira Corporation. Keynote address: *Leading with Culture*, presented on March 24, 2005. As part of the Executive-in-Residence Series, this event was presented before NIU business and engineering students and faculty. (Co-sponsored by the NIU College of Business and the NIU College of Engineering and Engineering Technology)

James Gentry, professor emeritus and distinguished teacher scholar, University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign. Keynote address: *Risk Class and Cash Flow*, presented on September 9, 2005, before College of Business faculty and students. (Sponsored by the Department of Finance)

Itzak Ben-David and Darren Roulstone of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago. October 7, 2005, research presentation: *Limited Arbitrage and Profitable Trading: Evidence from Insider Trading and Firm Transactions*. (Sponsored by the Department of Finance)

Neil Bresnahan, Morgan Stanley executive director, fixed income futures; Nick Calamos (M.S. Finance 1989), Calamos Investments’ senior executive vice president, head of investments/CIO; and Gerald Jensen, NIU professor of finance, headed up a panel discussion that explored what the U.S. economy might look like in 2006. This first Annual M.B.A. Business Forecast Luncheon—held December 7, 2005, at NIU Naperville—was sponsored by the NIU M.B.A. Programs Office.
Making it Work – Student Achievements

**NBC “Apprentice” Alumni and NIU Marketing Apprentice Students.** NIU College of Business Marketing Apprentice students pose with past NBC “Apprentice” participants Bill Rancic (first row, center), Pamela (first row, third from right), and Bradford (second row, third from right) during an October 2004 American Management Association seminar held in Chicago. In a 15-minute mini-apprentice conflict-resolution task—and competing against participating Chicago-area business owners and managers—the NIU students were judged by the panel of NBC “Apprentice” participants to be the winning team.

**Financial Management Association (FMA), Department of Finance student organization.** For the second year running, the NIU FMA Chapter earned the FMA Superior Chapter Award, the highest honor for an FMA Student Chapter or Honor Society. Of the more than 200 active FMA student chapters, less than 8% receive this honor each year.

**Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM), Department of Management student organization.** The NIU SAM Chapter was recognized nationally by placing third among outstanding chapters in the nation. The students received the award at the SAM International Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS) Student Organization.** APICS student members—all operations management and information systems (OM&IS) majors—won the 10th Annual APICS Regional Student Case Competition held Saturday, February 5, 2005. The case involved a Midwestern manufacturing plant of a large automotive parts supplier where performance lagged and the plant faced possible closure.

Competing student teams worked from 9 p.m. Friday to 12 noon Saturday to make recommendations. On Saturday, each team presented its solutions to more than 200 conference attendees and a panel of APICS judges. NIU’s APICS chapter won first place, competing against 13 APICS student chapters from schools such as the University of Illinois, Ball State University, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, and University of Houston.

**Jennifer Kaplan (B.S. Accountancy ’03, M.A.S. ’04) and Ryan Krzmarzick: CPA Review candidates.** In spring 2005, Jennifer and Ryan were honored at the Illinois CPA Society Awards ceremony for achieving a score of 90 or above on all sections of the CPA exam and for passing the exam with scores that rank within the top 5% nationally. Both Jennifer and Ryan took the college’s CPA Review course prior to sitting for the CPA exam.

**Certified Treasury Professional Associate (CTPA) Credential.** Department of Finance students who took the Certified Treasury Professional examination and earned the CTPA credential were: Jeff Bryant (B.S. Finance 2005), Jennifer Fernandes (B.S. Finance 2005), Steven Illingworth (B.S. Finance 2005), Luis Sanchez (B.S. Finance 2005), Eric Wills (B.S. Finance 2005), Mark Galecki (B.S. Finance 2005), Crystal Eaden (B.S. Finance 2005), Zachary Albert (B.S. Finance 2003), Karol Stankeiwicz (B.S. Finance 2005), and Kaushik Patel (B.S. Finance 2005).
Achievements Faculty

Madan Annavarjula, assistant professor of management, was nominated for membership with Phi Beta Delta, the Honor Society for International Scholars. NIU’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies has also awarded a Title VI grant to Annavarjula for his efforts to develop a course that focuses on Southeast Asian business studies.

John Banko, assistant professor of finance, passed the Level II Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Ed Brata, marketing instructor, received the NIU Outstanding Teaching Award for instructors.

Doug Clinton, Alta Via Consulting professor of accountancy, was asked by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) to serve as the first “contributing editor for Strategic Cost Management” and as “senior content advisor to the IMA Research Centre of Education.”

Carol DeMoranville, professor of marketing, received the 2005 Great Professor Award from students in the NIU University Honors Program, where DeMoranville—in addition to her regular workload—advised numerous honors capstones, served on the honors committee, and taught several classes.

Debra Hopkins, CPA Review director, was one of four women to be awarded the Illinois CPA Society’s “2005 Women to Watch” designation in the “Experienced Leaders” category. Other award winners include partners from PricewaterhouseCoopers, RSM McGladrey, and American Express Tax & Business Services. The “Women to Watch” award is given to those women who have made notable contributions to the accounting profession, their organizations, and to the development of women as leaders.

Gerald Jensen, professor of finance; John Banko, assistant professor of finance; and Mitch Conover, professor of finance, University of Richmond, co-authored a research paper entitled “The Relationship between the Value Effect and Industry Affiliation.” This paper discusses value investing and the interrelationship between the higher historical returns (known as “value effect”) produced by firms and the industry in which a firm operates. The authors’ paper has been accepted for 2006 publication by The Journal of Business and represents the first NIU paper ever accepted for publication in this periodical. Produced by the University of Chicago Press, The Journal of Business publishes only the highest quality papers in all business disciplines.

Jack Marchewka, associate professor of operations management and information systems, was one of 20 MIS faculty nationwide to participate in McGraw-Hill’s Management Information Systems Symposium held March 2005. During the symposium, leading faculty discussed how technology, learning styles, and preparation for success beyond the classroom shape how the field of management information systems is taught. McGraw-Hill will use the faculty feedback to create products that better fit into the current learning environment.

Rick Ridnour, professor of marketing, was named the Enterprise Corporation Professorship.

Denise Schoenbachler, OTA/Off the Record research professor of marketing; Geoffrey Gordon, OTA/Off the Record research professor of marketing; and Tim Aurand, associate professor of marketing, won the Emerald Insight Literati Club 2005 Outstanding Paper Award for their co-authored research paper entitled “Building Brand Loyalty through Individual Stock Ownership” [published in The Journal of Product and Brand Management (November 2004)].

David Sinason, PricewaterhouseCoopers associate professor of accountancy, co-authored the book Auditing and Assurance Services, which was selected the First Edition of the Year for all of McGraw-Hill/Irwin.

Chris Stakal, marketing academic advisor, was named the Outstanding Faculty Advisor for 2005 for her work with the Marketing Student Advisory Board. Chris is one of two university-wide to receive this honor.

Sally Webber, HSBC professor of accountancy, was elected by undergraduate accountancy majors as their choice for the accountancy department Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award (academic year 2004-2005). Sally has taught in the managerial and systems areas in the college’s undergraduate accountancy program, as well as in the Master of Accounting Science and Executive M.B.A. programs. Currently, Sally is co-advisor for the National Association of Black Accountants student group. Sally is well-known by both her students and colleagues for being a very dedicated professor who motivates students to perform at their full potential.

Debra Zahay, Acxiom Corporation professor of interactive marketing, was recognized by the Decision Sciences Journal (DSJ) for “…the impact her article makes toward advancing decision sciences.” The article is entitled “Customer Learning Processes, Strategy Selection, and Performance in Business-to-Business Service Firms,” and was one of only seven articles selected by DSJ editors to be a “highlight” article on the DSJ homepage.
The Seventh Annual NIU Executive Club Endowed Scholarship Gala was an exciting evening of fun, networking, and camaraderie. More importantly, it was an evening of opportunities: an opportunity for the NIU Executive Club scholarship recipients to network with NIU alumni business leaders; an opportunity to generate additional funds for exceptional students who aspire to become business leaders; even an opportunity to further one’s career by obtaining, through the Gala’s Live Auction, the chance to earn a Professional M.B.A. degree at half the tuition price.

Ryan Lotich, the 2005 scholarship recipient, addressed the attendees, sharing his excitement at the prospect of getting to know and work with the college’s NIU Executive Club members. Matthew Rasche, the 2005 Connection Scholar, was also introduced. Both current and new scholars received an unexpected surprise when the NIU Executive Club announced that, with more than $73,000 raised, the Scholarship Endowment Fund had grown sufficiently to be able to increase the current two-year scholarship to a four-year scholarship.

NIU’s College of Business sincerely appreciates the generous commitment demonstrated by alumni and corporations, all of whom make this important scholarship possible. Roy Schultz (’00 Finance), the dinner dance committee chair, and the committee members dedicated many hours to achieve a wonderfully successful event.

Help Outstanding NIU Business Students Become Future Business Leaders

Plan to participate in the 2006 Endowed Scholarship Dinner Dance by saving the date now: Saturday, November 4, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency, Woodfield. To reserve your participation or for detailed information, please contact Sue Braffet at (815) 753-1433; e-mail braffet@niu.edu.

—Sue Braffet, Alumni Director
Ryan Lotich
NIU Executive Club 2005 Scholarship Recipient

Ryan Lotich graduated from William Fremd High School in June 2005. He excelled academically and participated in numerous extracurricular activities. In addition to being a member of the high school soccer team for four years, he participated in the Palatine Celtic Soccer Club for three years. Ryan's other extracurricular activities include playing high school tennis for two years, serving as an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, and attaining instructor/Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. As an active member of the National Honor Society and Student Council, and a featured student writer/author at a Community-wide Writer’s Week, Ryan exemplifies a well rounded, outstanding student with potential for becoming a business leader.

Ryan’s community service includes organizing a school-wide blood drive orientation and donation day; the outcome of this event placed Fremd High School in first place for the number of donations given. He participated in Assist-a-Family, a Holy Family Church program providing food and gifts for the less fortunate. He also participated in National Honor Society activities including a food drive, senior center visits, Adopt-a-Family, and Grant-a-Wish program for underprivileged Chicago children. Ryan was a student goalkeeper coach for the Fremd High School girls soccer team, the first student goalkeeper coach in the program’s history.

Ryan has served as a peer juror for the Hoffman Estates Police Department since 2001. This program aids adolescents to search for underlying causes in their criminal behavior and activities as well as to understand the consequences of their actions. Ryan managed to also find time to develop promotional marketing tools for the ITA Group.

Ryan appreciates this opportunity to work with and learn from the successful business members of the NIU Executive Club. He feels this experience, along with the outstanding NIU College of Business program, will be the “winning combination” he needs to reach his future goals.

For more information about the NIU College of Business alumni clubs, please visit the following web pages.

NIU Executive Club:
www.cob.niu.edu/executiveclub/president.asp
Dan Feeley (B.S. OMIS 1985), president

Rockford Area Alumni Club:
www.cob.niu.edu/rockfordclub/
Jeff Wallem (B.S. MGMT 1979), president
Alumni Newsmakers

CNBC Television

Nick Calamos (M.S. FINA 1989) co-hosted the “CNBC Morning Show” on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 (6-7 a.m. CST). Calamos is the chief investment officer of Calamos Asset Management.

Crain’s Chicago Business

Jeffrey S. Aronin (B.S. MKTG 1989), president and CEO of Ovation Pharmaceuticals Inc., was featured in Crain’s November 1, 2004, special section “Focus: 40 Under 40,” a profile of successful Chicago-area business leaders under the age of 40. Aronin started Ovation Pharmaceuticals in 2001 with the idea of building a business around “orphan” drugs, or treatments for rare diseases. Since its founding, Ovation has won the rights to drug treatments for rare conditions such as lead poisoning, porphyria (an unusual blood disorder), and infantile spasms, among others. In 2004, Ovation posted revenues of $75 million, a $30 million increase from 2003 revenues.

Jay Goltz (B.S. ACCY 1978) was featured in Crain’s July 11, 2005, special section “Focus: Small Business…Taking it to the Next Level.” Goltz expanded his successful framing business in Chicago’s North Clybourn corridor by opening two stores: Artists Frame Service, and Chicago Art Source. After adding furniture and plants for his customers’ comfort, Goltz decided to open Jayson Home & Garden specifically for that merchandise. During the past five years, the three stores doubled combined revenues.

Patrick Goy (B.S. MKTG 1970, M.B.A. 1972), managing director of Lincoln Partners, LLC, was quoted in Crain’s October 17, 2005, article “Local Deal-Making Activity Takes Dip in 3rd Quarter,” which discussed Illinois’s slow-down in overall merger and acquisition activities during third quarter 2005, mirroring a worldwide trend that was caused in part by Hurricane Katrina and soaring energy prices.

Mark Frigo (M.B.A. 1974) was recognized in Crain’s April 4, 2005, special section “Focus: M.B.A. Programs” as one of few Chicago-area Faculty All-Stars. In 1980, Frigo left his corporate career in strategic planning and mergers and acquisitions to become an M.B.A. professor at DePaul University. A fourth-degree black belt, Frigo has a teaching style likened to that of the character Robin Williams plays in the movie Dead Poets Society. Captain, my Captain!

Michael Hall (M.B.A. 1978), Midwest managing partner at Grant Thornton LLP, made press as the lead feature in Crain’s “People Spotlight” section (September 19, 2005). With Grant Thornton since 1978, Hall was promoted from Chicago managing partner when he presided over a Chicago office expansion to $50 million in annual revenues and nearly 400 professionals.

William Jones (B.S. FINA 1979), chairman of Cummins-Allison Corp., was featured in Crain’s September 26, 2005, Opinion Page with his op-ed piece “U.S. Manufacturing Survival Depends on a Supportive Gov’t.”

Joseph Miller (M.S. FINA 1988) was recognized in Crain’s “On the Move” section in the October 24, 2005, issue for his promotion to vice president at Follett Educational Distribution Group.

Michael Nikolich (B.S. MKTG 1979) was featured in the July 11, 2005, article “No More Dull Boy,” which discusses the importance of balancing work and life. For 10 years, Nikolich managed the advanced technology practice at Chicago PR firm Selz Seabolt & Associates Inc. In 1993, Nikolich founded his own PR Firm, Tech Image, a Buffalo Grove company employing 15 account reps and billing $2 million annually. Along with logging billable hours, Nikolich spends time each week playing golf, racquetball, and a Fender Stratocaster guitar.

Russell Smyth (B.S. ACCY 1978, M.S. ACCY 1980), president—McDonald’s Europe, was included in a story on the strength of McDonald’s top management team beyond CEO Charlie Bell (May 17, 2004, issue).

Crain’s Lists

Chicago’s Largest Privately Held Companies


Chicago’s Largest SBA Lenders

Tim Landry (B.S. MGMT 1979), head of SBA Lending in Chicago for CIT Small Business Lending Corp. (October 10, 2005).

Illinois’ Most Influential Families

Nick Calamos (M.S. FINA 1989), chief investment officer of Calamos Asset Management (October 17, 2005).

Largest Women-Owned Firms

Deborah L. Stange (B.S. MKTG 1978), president of West Fuels Inc. (December 13, 2004).

The Fortunate 100


Who’s Who in Chicago Business

Michael Hall (M.B.A. 1978), Midwest managing partner at Grant Thornton LLP (September 5, 2005, issue).


In review 2005 Alumni Gatherings

Illinois Commercial Buy Lease and Build

Bruce J. Teitelbaum (B.S. ACCY 1978), president of Vision Realty Partners, Ltd., was featured in a cover story that reviewed Teitelbaum’s inspiration for creating Vision, a real estate investment company. Teitelbaum also describes how the company’s core values of integrity, fairness, and treating people with respect serve as the firm’s foundation for record performance: in 2004, Vision acquired 20 properties valued in excess of $40 million.

Rockford Register Star

Tom Budd (B.S. ACCY and FINA 1986), president and chief executive officer of the Rockford Bank and Trust Co., and Shawn Way (B.S. MKTG 1984), executive vice president of the Rockford Bank and Trust Co., were covered in a July 8, 2004, review of their plans to open a new bank. With a focus on mid-sized to small business owners, the Rockford Bank and Trust Co. provides the powerful tools of a major financial institution, the convenience of a one-stop financial resource, and the responsiveness of a local bank.

Janyce Fadden (M.B.A. 1984) was featured in the Register Star’s September 6, 2005, Business Section. The article profiled Fadden’s position as president of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council. Fadden described the council’s missions and goals, which focus primarily on job creation, the expansion and retention of business in the Rockford metropolitan area, and reinvigorating the Rock River Valley manufacturing economy.

Summarized by Elizabeth Dombek (B.S.B.A. major), Erin Weinberg (marketing major), and Michelle De Jean (’94, ’01).

“Hoops for Troops” – Huskies Men’s Basketball vs. Eastern Michigan
January 22, 2005 – NIU Convocation Center

Sponsored by the NIU M.B.A. program, the “Hoops for Troops” pre-game reception included a ceremony with Illinois Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn. Lieutenant Governor Quinn accepted a check from Robert Heck and Randi Seavers, two College of Business marketing majors who, in a fundraising project, helped raise more than $13,000 for the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund. Funds raised include a generous donation from college alumnus Nick Calamos (M.S. Finance 1989), CIO and head of investments at Calamos Investments.

College of Business 15th Annual Alumni Luncheon
May 6, 2005 – Hilton Lisle/Naperville

With more than 200 alumni in attendance, the College of Business hosted its 15th annual alumni luncheon for the 2005 distinguished alumnus, Craig Funkhouser (B.S. Accountancy 1979).

2005 NIU Homecoming
October 15, 2005

Prior to cheering the Huskies on to a victory against Eastern Michigan, NIU alumni renewed friendships and participated in pre-game tailgating festivities, which included plenty of food and drink at the College of Business tent.

NIU Business and Engineering Football and Networking Event
November 16, 2005 – Fox & Hound Smokehouse & Tavern in Schaumburg

NIU College of Business and College of Engineering and Engineering Technology alumni attended a fun night of NIU football and networking as the Huskies took on the Toledo Rockets for a nationally televised match up. The event was co-sponsored by the ETAS Alumni Association and the College of Business.
In review 2005 Alumni Gatherings

Events Sponsored by the NIU College of Business Executive Club


After Hours Social at The Curragh – Traditional Irish Pub The Trophy Room, May 19, 2005 – Schaumburg For this first after-hours social, College of Business alumni who work and live in Chicago’s northwest suburbs gathered in a casual setting to reconnect with each other. They also met with NIU Executive Club members who described the benefits of participating in the NIU Executive Club.

“Mastering a Positive and Powerful First Impression” Business-To-Business Networking Breakfast, August 10, 2005 – NIU Naperville Be approachable. Project confidence. Present a polished appearance at work. These were some of the messages conveyed by guest speaker Donna Panko, who shared the do’s and don’ts for conveying a confident and strong first impression.

NIU Executive Club Seventh Annual Endowed Scholarship Dinner Dance Hyatt Regency Woodfield, November 5, 2005 – Schaumburg Sponsored by the NIU Professional M.B.A. Program, the Dinner Dance was a lovely event that included a reception and silent auction. Great food, a live auction, dancing, camaraderie, and a commitment to raise scholarship monies for qualified business students made the night truly memorable.

Events Sponsored by the NIU College of Business Rockford Area Alumni Club

Huskie Family Network Night Burpee Museum of Natural History, April 19, 2005 – Rockford Professor Michael Parrish and Mark Mehner from the NIU Department of Biological Sciences and Department of Anthropology presented “Behind the Scenes with Jane the Tyrannosaurus.” The event was co-sponsored by AMCORE Bank and the NIU College of Business Rockford Area Alumni Club.

2005 Annual Golf Outing Aldeen Golf Club, May 26, 2005 – Rockford With a tee time at 3 p.m., attendees hit the links for nine holes, followed by a social hour and dinner, with NIU’s head football coach Joe Novak serving as featured speaker.

NIU Rockford Area Alumni Club Bus Trip September 10, 2005 – NIU Rockford Rockford-area alumni chartered a bus and traveled to Evanston to attend the Huskies vs. Wildcats football game at Northwestern. The trip, sponsored by the Rockford Area Alumni Club, included a game ticket, lunch, and great conversations.

“Venture Capital Comes to Town: Investing in Rockford’s Future” Rockford Alumni Club M.B.A. Colloquium Executive Lecture Series and Reception, October 19, 2005 – NIU Rockford This thought-provoking presentation was made by Steve Bois, Northern Stateline region manager, Ted Greene, CEO of Akoya, Inc., and Jack Packard, president of Angel Network. NIU College of Business Dean William Tallon moderated. This event was co-sponsored by the M.B.A. Colloquium Executive Lecture Series.
Up and coming 2006 Events

2006 Alumni Events

February 8
Executive Club B2B Networking Breakfast
NIU Naperville — 7:30 a.m.

March 14
Executive Club Spring Face-to-Face Hilton (Lisle/Naperville) — 6 p.m.

April
Rockford Alumni Club Networking Night
NIU Rockford (date to be announced)

May 5
Alumni Luncheon Hilton (Lisle/Naperville) — 11:30 a.m.

May 10
Executive Club B2B Networking Breakfast
NIU Naperville — 7:30 a.m.

May 25
Rockford Alumni Club Golf Outing Aldeen Golf Course, Rockford — 3 p.m.

August 9
Executive Club B2B Networking Breakfast
NIU Naperville — 7:30 a.m.

September 11
Executive Club Ninth Annual Golf Outing Kishwaukee Country Club, DeKalb — 11 a.m.

October
Homecoming NIU Campus, DeKalb (date to be announced)

October
Rockford Alumni Club/M.B.A. Lecture Series
NIU Rockford (date to be announced)

October 10
Executive Club Fall Face-to-Face Hilton (Lisle/Naperville) — 6 p.m.

November 4
Endowed Scholarship Dinner Dance Gala and Silent Auction Hyatt Regency — Woodfield, Schaumburg

November 15
Executive Club B2B Networking Breakfast
NIU Naperville — 7:30 a.m.

Spring 2006 M.B.A. Events

February 7
M.B.A. Get Acquainted Dinner NIU Hoffman Estates — 5:30 p.m.

February 8
M.B.A. Get Acquainted Dinner NIU Naperville — 5:30 p.m.

February 9
M.B.A. Get Acquainted Dinner NIU Rockford — 5:30 p.m.

February 25
M.B.A. Workshop: Team Building NIU Hoffman Estates

April 6
M.B.A. Colloquium with Steven Levitt, author of the New York Times bestseller Freakonomics NIU Naperville

April 22
M.B.A. Workshop: Global Communications NIU Naperville
1950

John C. Snyder (B.S. BEAS 1956) and Eileen Andersen Snyder (B.S. Education 1957) retired after working as a retail manager for 40 years in retail stores including Marshall Field’s-Chicago, Halles & Hilbees-Cleveland, and Crowleys-Detroit.

1960

James P. Walsh (B.S. MGMT 1960) spent over 45 years in food retailing. While attending NIU, Jim worked part time and eventually became vice president of Grand Bazaar Stores and Service Operations with Jewel Food Stores. He later became president and owner of an Independent Food Corporation, Pick ’n Save, and then vice president of operations: Cub Foods, Division of SuperValu. Jim received his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1975, and retired March 1, 2002. Jim currently lives in Joliet, Illinois, with his wife, Margie.

Jerry Armstrong (B.S. MGMT 1962, M.B.A. 1971) retired from DeKalb Genetics Corporation in 1996 after 35 years and moved to Venice, Florida, where he has been active on his country club’s board and a local community foundation. Jerry gets together periodically with an NIU alumni group in southwest Florida and has also attended three NIU football games in Florida.

William Taylor (B.S. ACCY 1967) and Dian Taylor (B.S. Mathematics 1966, M.B.A. 1979) Bill recently retired as a partner from Deloitte & Touche USA LLP, having also served as a member of its Board of Directors, and its global organization Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. During the last 15 years, Bill has been a principal advisor in many of the largest corporate buyouts in history. A member of the NIU College of Business Board of Executive Advisors, Bill also serves on the NIU Foundation’s Board and other professional and civic organizations in the Chicago area. Dian is a member of the Women’s Board of Chicago Youth Centers and led its Summer Fund, which provides camp experience to inner-city youth. Dian also actively supports other youth and educational organizations in Chicago and its North Shore.

Daniel P. Turillo (B.S. MGMT 1965, M.S. MKTG 1968) retired from teaching and car rental management and resides in Dania Beach, Florida. Daniel spent 25 years teaching in Dade County Schools and 15 years working at Budget Car Rentals.

Robert Paul LaScola (B.S. MGMT 1969) is a quality assurance manager for Alpha Baking in Chicago. He has been in the food industry for over 20 years, working for companies such as Sara Lee, Bakers Square, and Perkins Restaurants. Robert and his wife, Rosemary, reside in Wood Dale, Illinois.

1970

Susan Drilling (B.S. BEAS 1970, M.S.Ed 1976) has decided to retire and relocate to Las Vegas after 32 rewarding years of teaching business courses and coordinating a business cooperative education program at T.F. North High School. Susan is enjoying the beautiful Las Vegas weather, entertaining friends, and exploring the southwest.

Robert J. Hoerdeman (B.S. MGMT 1971) is national account manager with Roche Pharmaceuticals. With 34 years in the pharmaceutical industry, Robert began his career immediately after graduation from NIU as a sales professional for Syntex Labs. In 1995, Roche Pharmaceuticals purchased Syntex. Since the acquisition, Robert held numerous positions within Roche, from division sales manager, government account manager, regional sales director, and area director of sales, to his current position as national account manager.


Sun J. Kim (M.B.A. 1973) lives in Bradenton, Florida, with his wife, Keaok, a chemistry alumnus from NIU.


Diane Vecchio Bruno (B.S. BEAS 1978) is director of human resources for The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, Connecticut. Diane was quoted in the April 2005, Inc. magazine article “Re: Health Insurance.”

Richard J. Block (B.S. MKTG 1979) was promoted to senior account executive for Kellysearch Reed Business Information in March 2005. Richard’s promotion marks the first time the company granted a promotion of this nature within the United States. Richard and his wife, Anita, reside in Buffalo Grove, Illinois.

1980

Keith Beresheim (ACCY, MKTG) was recently promoted to president of Regional Consulting Specialists, which experienced a doubling of revenues under Keith’s leadership. Prior to his promotion, he oversaw the company’s financial operations for nearly five years, laying the groundwork for the firm’s first public offering. Keith and his wife, Barbara, have three beautiful children, Laurel, Patti, and Karen.

Leslie V. Barrows (B.S. ACCY 1982) recently joined Archstone Consulting in Chicago as a director.
Jeff A. Clark (B.S. Computer Science 1982, M.B.A. 1991) retired in 2003 after working for more than 25 years in the computer industry, the final 13 years as Microsoft’s senior program manager. After retiring, Jeff started the Oroya Group, an investment corporation that currently owns, manages, and operates a chain of Quizno’s franchised restaurants in the Seattle area.

Peter S. Andersen (B.S. MGMT 1984) Sadly, Peter recently passed away. He is survived by his wife, Anne, and daughter, Alana Tamara Miller; his mother; three sisters; and two brothers. Peter’s many life achievements included serving in the Navy, managing an event retail business, and assisting his wife in the development of a catering business. In 2002, Peter and Anne opened Watkinsville’s first fine dining establishment, called Le Maison Bleu. Peter’s demanding business sense, his customer commitment, and his pleasure in food, friends, and life have ensured the continued success of Maison Bleu. Peter will be missed by many friends, the staff at Maison Bleu, and the community of Watkinsville.

Mark J. Assise (B.S. ACCY 1984) resides in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, with his wife, Kim. Mark is vice president of business development for ABM International.

Howard Kaufman (B.S. MKTG 1984) is vice president of PETsMART’s Direct Business, located in Phoenix, Arizona.

Korawut Leenabanchong (M.B.A. 1991) is chief investment officer at BoA Asset Management in Bangkok, Thailand.

Michael J. Kulovany (B.S. MKTG 1999) was promoted to regional sales manager of NexTech Systems, Inc., in April 2005. Michael and his family have relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada, where Michael will open a western office location for NexTech Systems, an industry leader in practice management and electronic medical records software.

1990

Dennis D. Robison (B.S. MGMT 1990) was promoted to category manager with Albertsons, Inc. The career move brings Dennis and his wife, Ellen, to new digs in sunny Scottsdale, Arizona.

Korawut Leenabanchong (M.B.A. 1991) is chief investment officer at BoA Asset Management in Bangkok, Thailand.

Steven J. Warner (B.S. FINA 1992) is vice president and team leader of GE Capital in Chicago.

Mitch R. Rubenstein (B.S. MKTG 1994, M.B.A. 2001) is a sales professional in the International Sales division of CCC Inc. Mitch was married this past July.

Scott A. Solverson (B.S. MKTG 1994) was promoted in December 2004 to director of sales and business development at Bulley & Andrews, LLC., serving primarily the Chicago metropolitan market.

Matthew Holaves (B.S. ACCY 1997) and Jelena Holaves (B.S. Music 1997) are happy to report that they both recently graduated with M.B.A. degrees from The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. The couple lives in New York City and both work in investment banking.

2000

Stephen R. Bicking (M.B.A. 2000) is the director of operations for Smith Engineering's corporate headquarters in McHenry, Illinois. Smith Engineering is a multiple disciplinary civil engineering firm that provides civil/structural engineering, surveying, and planning services throughout the country.

David J. Looby (B.S. MKTG 2000) lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was married on August 21, 2004. David graduated from the University of Tulsa College of Law in May 2005, and sat for the Oklahoma Bar Examination in July. David plans to move either to Texas or return to Illinois to pursue an LLM degree in taxation at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law or Northwestern University School of Law.

Lesly A. McAnelly (B.S. OMIS 2000) attended aircraft electrician school for the Army National Guard, and has been a reservist since September 2000. In August 2004, she graduated with a B.S. and M.S. in electrical engineering, earned separately, from NIU’s College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Lesly resides in Elkridge, Maryland, and is currently a microelectronics process engineer at the Applied Physics Laboratory, an affiliate of the Johns Hopkins University.

Amanda J. Page (B.S. MKTG 2001) is a marketing associate with the Bradford Exchange.

Crystal Wathen (B.S. MKTG 2001) is an onsite manager with Staffing, Now, Inc. in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Benjamin N. Cleaver (B.S. Finance 2002) is PL senior service representative with Nationwide Insurance in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sarah N. Galpin (B.S. FINA 2004) is a municipal trading associate with BondWave LLC, in Lisle, Illinois.

Jordan W. Merriman (B.S. OMIS 2004) is an account manager with J.B. Hunt Trucking Company. Jordan and his wife currently reside in Nevada.
Financial Stakeholders

NIU's College of Business is grateful for all investments made to the College of Business, as represented in this partial listing. For a complete listing of corporate and individual investments made, please visit: www.cob.niu.edu/alumni/donors

Gift Donations of More Than $50,000

- KPMG LLP Foundation
- McKesson Corporation

Gift Donations of $20,000-$49,999

- Axiom Corporation
- Beck Family Foundation
- Chicago Association of Direct Marketing Education Fdn
- Crowe Chizek & Company, LLC
- Enterprise Leasing Company of Chicago
- Ernst & Young Foundation
- HSBC

Gift Donations of $5,000-$19,999

- ASAP Software
- AstraZeneca
- Careerbuilder, LLC
- Cintas Corporation
- Cornerstone International Group
- Deloitte & Touche Fdn.
- Effner Financial Group
- Experian
- Gleeson, Sklar, Sawyers & Cumpata, LLP
- HILTI, Inc.
- James S. Kemper Foundation
- LaSalle National Bank
- Liberty Mutual
- NICOR Gas
- Plante & Moran, PLLC
- Texor Petroleum Company
- Warady & Davis LLP

Gift Donations of $1,000-$4,999

- A Campus Journey
- Accenture LLP
- Adducci Family Foundation
- AMCORE Financial, Inc.
- Ayco Charitable Foundation
- Baxter International Fdn.
- BDO Seidman
- Beta Alpha Psi
- BP Corporation North America, Inc.
- Caterpillar, Inc.
- CDW Computer Centers, Inc.
- Chicago Mercantile Exchange
- Deloitte & Touche, LLP
- Eli Lilly & Company
- Ernst & Young, L.L.P.
- Fastenal Company Services
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Follett Higher Education Group
- Garelli Wong & Associates Inc.
- Grant Thornton, LLP
- Greenbrier & Russel, Inc.
- Clifton Gunderson LLP
- Harris Bank Foundation
- Hilb Rogal & Hobbs of Chicago, Inc.
- Kimble Glass Inc.
- KineticSystems Company, LLC
- Kohl's Corporation
- KPMG LLP
- Marketing Science Institute
- McDonald's Foundation
- Miller Cooper & Company
- Motorola Foundation
- National Bank & Trust Company of Sycamore
- NCR Corp.
- Nextel
- Northwestern Mutual Life Fdn., Inc.
- Oak Brook Charitable Contribution Fund
- OfficeMax
- Ozinga Bros., Inc.
- Pella Rolscreen Foundation
- PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP - Florida Project Leadership Associates, Inc.
- Restaurant.Com
- Reznick Fedder & Silverman
- RSM McGladrey, Inc.
- Ryan & Company
- Sayers Finance Corporation
- Shell Oil Company Fdn.
- Sherwin-Williams Company
- Sikich Gardner & Co., LLP
- SpearMC Management Consulting, Inc.
- Supremo
- The McHenry Group
- TSI - Transforming Solutions, Inc.
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- USG Foundation, Inc.
- UST Inc.
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
- Vector Marketing Corporation
- Venturi Staffing Partners
- Walgreen Co.
- Wallem Associates
- Wells Fargo Financial
- Wolf & Company, LLP
- W.W. Grainger, Inc.

Faculty

Northern Illinois University College of Business

Accountancy
- Steve Casper
- Natalie Churyk
- Doug Clinton
- Bridgett Coleman
- William Cummings
- Sandy Devona
- John Engstrom
- Ed Foley
- Barbara Fox
- Julitta Gilbert
- Gerald Harmsmith
- Debra Hopkins
- Brian Keller
- Chih-Chen Lee
- Lisa Madlinger
- Kate Mantzke
- Walter Miller
- Frank O’Connell
- Dorice Pepin
- Tamara Phelan
- Rebecca Shortridge
- John Simon
- Dave Sinason
- Scott Singer
- Harshini Siriwandane
- Pam Smith
- Leonard Soffer
- Don Tidrick
- Catherine Traynor
- Michael Wall
- Sally Webber
- James Young
- Suzanne Youngberg

Finance
- John Banko
- Deborah Cernauskas
- Dennis Dean
- Diane Docking
- Richard Downen
- Timur Gok
- Norman Goldstein
- Gerald Jensen
- James Johnson
- Kathy Johnson
- Thomas Mann
- Robert Miller
- Mark Quinn
- Lei Zhou

Management
- Madan Annavarjula
- Dennis Barsema
- Curt Behrens
- Terry Bishop
- Jon Briscoe
- Paula Brown
- John Bruton
- Ken Elliott
- Marvin Evans
- Luis Flores

Operations Management and Information Systems
- Gerald Aase
- Robert Beatty
- Richard Born
- Charles Downing
- Richard Erickson
- Kim Fudge
- Thomas Galvin
- Gyu Kim
- Chang Liu
- Brian Mackie
- Jack Marchewka
- Brad McDonald
- Kathleen McFadden
- Charles Petersen
- Nancy Russo
- Rod Sink
- Greg Stock
- William Talon

Marketing
- David Aron
- Timothy Aurand
- Edward Brata
- Sandra Domagalski
- Elisa Fredericks
- Geoffrey Gordon
- Julie Hillery
- Kim Judson
- Dan Morgan
- Rick Ridnour
- Denise Schoenbachler
- Tanuja Singh
- Gal Vermillion
- Brian Vollmert
- Jay Wagle
- Dan Weilbaker
- Richard Wozniak
- Debra Zahay
- Grady Zehr

Connie Fuller
- Charles Gowen
- Russ Hagberg
- Stephanie Henagan
- Marvin Hill
- Jennifer Kaminski
- Sarah Marsh
- Carolyn Miller
- Lynn Neeley
- Roman Nowacki
- Ronald Parrish
- Joan Petros
- Devaki Rau
- Stacey Short
- Bertrand Simpson
- Paul Vlajic
- David Wade
- Harry Wright
- Daniel Wunsch
Northern Illinois University

M.B.A. Programs

NIU’s M.B.A. Program is committed to making high-quality business education accessible to students whose busy schedules might otherwise prevent them from achieving their educational goals by offering a program format to fit everyone.

*Evening M.B.A.
*Executive M.B.A.
*Professional M.B.A.

What sets us apart?

- Affordable tuition rates
- Flexible schedules
- High-quality programs
- Outstanding student service
- Academically and professionally qualified faculty

Quality education for the career you want…

...convenience for the life you have.

Contact us now for more information!

www.cob.niu.edu/mbaprograms   mba@niu.edu   1-866-648-6221
In Memoriam

Ed Harris

11/15/1931 - 10/25/2005

Earl Edward ‘Ed’ Harris, age 73, of Prescott, Arizona, passed away on October 25, 2005. Ed was born on November 15, 1931, in West Burlington, Iowa, son of Earl and Anna Harris.

After receiving his B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa and his M.A. from the University of Minnesota, Ed married his high school sweetheart, Evonne L. Meier, on May 29, 1954.

Ed began his career in education as a teacher in the Davenport, Iowa, Community School District from 1955-63. He then moved to DeKalb, Illinois, completed his doctorate in education at NIU, and in 1965 became assistant professor at NIU’s College of Business. He earned full professor status in 1968. From 1973-1981, Ed served as chair of the Department of Business Education and Administrative Services in the College of Business. During his NIU tenure, Ed’s numerous accomplishments included the following noteworthy professional honors and awards:

- United States Association for Small Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, First Place Winner National Entrepreneurship Education Model Program Award, 1990.
- Inducted into the National Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, 1989.
- Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Ernst & Young and Inc. magazine, 1989.
- Northern Illinois University Distinguished Alumni Award, 1988.
- Certificates of Appreciation from U.S. White House Staff, and from Governor Thompson and Lt. Governor Ryan for contributions to White House and State Small Business Conferences, 1985.

After retiring from NIU in 1991, Ed and his wife, Evonne, moved to Prescott, Arizona. Once settled, he was selected to serve as the community representative on the Yavapai College Presidential Selection Committee. In 2000, he was elected as board chair in support of the college’s $69.5 million master plan. One of Ed’s many dreams was to help Yavapai College attain excellence in education.

Throughout his professional life, Ed dedicated himself to enhancing the quality of education. In his personal life his greatest joy was his granddaughter, Claudia Grace. He will be remembered not only as a leader in his community and an accomplished educator, but as a devoted husband, loving father, caring father-in-law, adoring grandfather, and kind and generous friend to all who knew him. Ed is survived by his wife, Evonne; daughter, Julie Ann; son, James Edward; daughter-in-law, Gracie; grandchild, Claudia Grace; and two brothers, Eugene and his wife, Ruth, Richard and his wife, Carole.

We will all miss you.

Ben earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business in May 2004 and promptly began taking summer classes toward his master’s degree in accountancy.

“He touched the lives of everyone in the business department he came in contact with,” said Emily Lane, a friend of Ben’s and an NIU graduate accountancy student. “He was very funny. Even while he was sick, he was still making jokes and helping his friends.”

To those who knew Ben well, before and after his diagnosis, he was a student leader, a bright mind, an inspiration to those around him, and a lover of NIU.

“He made a significant, positive impact on all of us,” said Professor of Accountancy Curt Norton. “You couldn’t find anyone who didn’t like Ben.” Family members, friends, and teachers gathered to remember Ben in Bartonville, Illinois. The people who had come across Ben’s “fun-loving personality” came together on numerous occasions to raise funds to help Ben ease the costs of continuing school while undergoing treatment.

“He had the motivation to overcome any weakness he found in himself,” said Mike Usalis, Ben’s roommate and longtime friend. “While fighting his cancer with more drugs than any of us could keep track of, he truly believed he could win,” he said.

Ben was laid to rest in his NIU sweatshirt and hat, a testament to “the institutional love of his life,” Tedrick said. Ben’s family and his many friends established an endowed scholarship in his memory. This endowed scholarship fund is already approximating $35,000 due to the generosity of many individuals. We would like to especially thank KPMG for their significant donation of approximately $20,000, the Kemper Foundation for their gift of $5,000, and Crowe Chizek for holding a special fundraiser for this fund. The funds from this scholarship will be used to support a graduate student in the NIU M.A.S. program who exemplifies the character for which Ben Peters will always be remembered.

Ben’s effect on his community has become clearer after his passing. Teachers and students alike are praising Ben’s presentation of himself as a student suffering from leukemia with dignity and without complaint while trying to achieve his goal of having a successful future.

“Ben would go to Chicago, to Rush Hospital in the morning for chemotherapy, and then come back to DeKalb for my class in the afternoon,” said Professor of Accountancy Don Tedrick, who saw Ben succeed in the classroom both before and after his diagnosis.

Article written by Kartikay Mehrotra and printed in the January 18, 2005, issue of the Northern Star, the university newspaper. Reprinted with permission of the Northern Star.