Master of Science in Data Analytics

In spring 2019, the NIU Department of Operations Management and Information Systems (OM&IS) will launch the Master of Science in Data Analytics (MSDA) program. It will be delivered in a completely online format. The MSDA provides students with the advanced knowledge and skills needed to analyze organizational data. This program features coursework based on the latest trends and best practices in the field. With a heavy focus on real-world learning experience, the program will build competencies in students for extracting deep insights from big data that are readily applicable in a range of contexts and industries. For more program information, please visit cob.niu.edu/omis.

Cozzi named OM&IS Outstanding Alumnus

Mike Cozzi graduated from the OM&IS program in May 1993. Upon graduation, he joined CAN as a programmer analyst. He has also worked at AT&T and U.S. Cellular as senior director of technology. Cozzi joined his current company HAVI in 2013. HAVI is a global company offering services in marketing analytics, packaging, supply chain management and logistics. Cozzi serves as a director of Global Category Management Technology and is responsible for managing “Happy Meal and Packaging” for McDonald’s, HAVI’s largest customer. Since 2016, Mike has worked with his colleagues to sponsor two HAVI-OM&IS scholarships each year. These scholarships are vitally important to the students by alleviating the burden of figuring out how to pay their education expenses, allowing the students to focus instead on their studies. Cozzi also worked with his HAVI team to participate in mock interviews for MIS students, providing suggestions and feedback on ways to improve.
New Assistant Professors

Xinyan Cao
Cao received her Ph.D. in Supply Chain and Operations Management from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Prior to the Ph.D. program, she received an MBA from Marquette University and a B.Eng. in Traffic and Transportation Management from the Beijing Jiaotong University in China. Her research interests are in the areas of game theory application in supply chain management, operations management and interface issues with marketing.

Min Lee
Lee earned a Ph.D. in Operations Management and a master's degree in Marketing both from Clemson University. Her undergraduate degree is in Economics from South Korea. She spent two years in the automotive industry as a logistic coordinator prior to working on her Ph.D. Lee’s research interests primarily focus on the performance impacts of “wellness-based” new service design features that were introduced to the hospitality industry.

Onkar Malgonde
Malgonde completed his doctorate in Information Systems and Master of Science in Management Information Systems from the University of South Florida. He received his Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of Pune, India. Onkar also worked with Infosys Limited as a Systems Engineer. Onkar’s primary research interests are developing design artifacts to address issues on digital multi-sided platforms.

Jiao (Aimee) Wu
Wu earned her Ph.D. in Information Technology Management from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She received her master’s degree from Renmin University of China and her bachelor’s degree from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications. Aimee also has three years of work experience as an assistant professor in the Business Information Systems department at the College of Business Administration of Central Michigan University. Wu’s research interests include social media behavior, data analytics, ERP and culture issues in IS adoption.

Highlights
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Professor Denise Schoenbachler offered her annual IT Women’s Leadership workshop in March 2018. Created in 2016, the workshop’s main purpose is to empower women in the technology field.

Steven Henry and Jim Heyland joined the department as full-time instructors.

As of May 2018, a total of 219 OM&IS undergraduates and MIS graduates received the SAP Student Recognition award. Additionally, 183 students received the Certificate of Enterprise Management Using SAP Software.

In May 2018, 31 OM&IS students in the SAS Joint Certificate Program received the Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Business Analytics Using SAS Software.

The OM&IS APICS (Association for Operations Management) team won first place for a case competition held by the APICS Chicago organization in Feb. 2018. The OM&IS APICS team members were Professor Shail Godambe (faculty advisor), Megan Christensen, Kristina Harvel, Christopher Neisendorf and William Slaw.

OM&IS student Andrew McComb was named the Gold Award recipient for the 2018 NIU Intern of the Year.
OM&IS and MIS Alumni Spotlight

**Joey Herzer**
(B.S./OM&IS May 2016)

I currently work for HAVI as an analyst within the Advanced Analytics and Consulting group. I have been with HAVI since spring 2016. HAVI has been a wonderful company to work for over the past two years. In my current position, I work directly with a team of developers to commercialize a solution for our customers in which our customers can quickly make sourcing decisions based off our analytical reporting in order to drive their own costs down, increasing their bottom lines. The biggest reason I like working for HAVI is because of the collaborative atmosphere within the company. The OM&IS program definitely helped me grow professionally and has contributed to my success thus far. I have used the technical skills, quality principles and project management skills to advance my career. My biggest recommendation for fellow OM&IS students is to network and to stay positive. Many people get hired by employee referrals, so it’s really important to maintain connections with your peers. Also, I would recommend getting a part-time job throughout college if possible. I worked part-time at a distribution center near campus and it really gave me an opportunity to apply the concepts I learned in the program as I was learning them.

**Nicholas Cepeda**
(B.S./OM&IS May 2016 and M.S./MIS May 2018)

I currently work for the Walt Disney Company as a Senior Marketing Insights Analyst. My team falls under the umbrella of Consumer Insights, Measurement and Analytics (CIMA) for Disney Parks and Resorts. Our primary goal is to measure the effectiveness of our marketing campaigns via various channels such as digital, TV and radio. My role is bridging the gap between the business and analytics teams. Being versatile enough to speak both languages and quickly answer business questions based on what the data tells us is crucial to the business. Effective communication can translate analytic findings into actionable results.

This was largely attributed to the skills that NIU’s MIS program had equipped me with. No two classes served me better than Professor Chuck Downing’s Big Data Analytics and Professor Chang Liu’s Business Intelligence courses. Having the ability to understand, manipulate, test and predict gives any organization a huge competitive advantage. But possibly the most crucial component is being able to translate what the data is telling you into an easily digestible story. Visualization goes a long way in clearly communicating to your target audience. Business acumen takes these technical skills to the next level by being able to demonstrate to executive leadership the value we can bring to the table. This makes us highly sought in the workforce.

Never stop learning. Even if you are a full-time student you should always be seeking knowledge outside of the classroom. Get your hands on real data sets, be curious and discover insights. But also keep in mind that technical skills alone won’t land you your dream job. Make sure you focus on networking and building relationships.
Scholarship and Award Winners
The Department of OM&IS awarded a total of $131,900 in scholarships during the 2017-2018 academic year. The generous scholarship sponsors and recipients are:

- **BearingPoint Consulting SAP Scholarship** — Manikanta Kumar Chekuri.
- **Beth Towell Excellence in Data Analytics Scholarship** — Luke Blazek.
- **CAN/Azel Carter, Jr. Memorial Scholarship** — Pierre Sanders-Jackson.
- **Crane Composites Scholarship in Business** — Zoya Khan.
- **Dean’s Scholarship for Incoming Freshman** — Reid Scott.
- **Deutsch Family Scholarship** — Mingyi Chen, Zayra Estupinan, Allison Marshall and Nicole Turen.
- **Gaylen and Joanne Larson Scholarship in Business** — Andrew Screnock.
- **Godambe Family Scholarship** — Casey Walters.
- **Information Integrity Coalition (IIC) Scholarship** — Kavya L. Mondrati.
- **Kathleen McFadden Community Service Scholarship** — Kevin Rius.
- **Marchewka Family Scholarship** — Harini R. Paderla.
- **Marian E. Millington Scholarship for the Advancement of Women in Information Technology** — Abigail Burke, Guojing Chen, Amanda Komp, Sarah McTighe and Maegan Trygstad.
- **Mortar Board Scholarship** — Brandon Townsend.
- **Nick and Kim Calamos Student Scholarship** — David Karwoski.
- **OM&IS Faculty Scholarship** — Sandra Patino-Lemus and Eduardo Rodriguez.
- **OM&IS — HAVI Scholarship** — Thomas Sijimon and Andrew Wieringa.
- **OM&IS Leadership Award** — Eugene Ciesla.
- **Outstanding MIS Student Scholarships** — Meenal Choudhary, Raja P. Mullapudi and Sami P. Vanga.
- **Outstanding OM&IS Student Scholarships** — Param Dagli, Abdalla Hafez, Christopher Reyes and Reid Scott.
- **Pearson Publisher Scholarship** — Michael Kucharski.
- **Randall N. Beck Scholarship** — Thomas O’Leary, Brandon Pham, Christopher Reyes, Kevin Rius, Eduardo Rodriguez and Thomas Sijimon.
- **Richard D. Brown and Omer G. Voss Jr. Leadership Award** — Avery Kirchner.
- **Stanley Lipien and James Mailander Scholarship** — Steven Miller.
- **Target SAP Scholarship** — John Holliday.
- **William and Eileen Breitzke Endowed Scholarship in OM&IS Award** — Jason Kaye, Michael Richard and Ryan Wagner.

Faculty recognized for excellence at the OM&IS Award Banquet
The OM&IS Department recognized faculty for their distinction.

- **Outstanding Faculty Research Award** — Kathleen McFadden.
- **Graduate Faculty Teaching Award** — Andrew Setterstrom.
- **Undergraduate Faculty Teaching Award** — Chuck Downing.
- **Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award** — Steven Henry.
- **Outstanding Faculty Service Award** — Charles Petersen.

Upcoming Events

**Fall 2018 OM&IS Open House**
Wednesday, Oct. 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Barsema Atrium, on the pond side (east).

**Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MIS) Informational Sessions**
From 4:30-5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 5, in Barsema Hall Room 301, and Tuesday, Nov. 6, in Barsema Hall Room 331.