We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning online students! In this Fall 2007 issue of GMBA newsletter, we would like to share with you the following information and updates:

- GMBA/AIM Virtual Welcome Session in Second Life
- Fall 2007 Online Courses and Professor Profiles
- Global MBA Online Blog Site Updates
- WebCT Server Unavailability Policy
- Important Reminders!

GMBA/AIM Virtual Welcome Session in Second Life

As we announced in our Summer 2007 issue of the GMBA newsletter, the UTD School of Management has set up its own island in Second Life - "a 3-D virtual world entirely built and owned by its residents". The staff of the GMBA program would like to invite you to our first ever Virtual Welcome Session which will take place on Friday August 17, 2007, at 2:00 pm Central Time in the virtual SOM building in Second Life, as shown in the image above.

To visit the UTD SOM virtual island and attend the Welcome Session, you must first create a free account at the Second Life web site (click on the Join Now button) and download the client software to your computer. After you login to Second Life, click the Map button and search for UTDSOM to visit our island. You may also use the following slurl: http://slurl.com/secondlife/UTD%20SOM/141/70/22/ to get there after you have set up your Second Life account and installed the client.

For more information about UTD SOM island, please visit: http://som.utdallas.edu/secondlife. You should also have received a separate email providing you the information about this virtual session.

So please come to join us and "tour your school" and "meet" GMBA staff, online faculty members and your fellow students! If you have any questions, please email gmbasupport@utdallas.edu.

Fall 2007 Courses and Professor Profiles

In this Fall 2007 semester, the Global MBA Online program will be offering 10 core courses and 6 electives. The Accounting Online program is also offering 11 online courses. Please see the Fall 2007 Course Offerings page for the complete course list and also the textbook list. If you still need to register for online courses for the Fall 2007 semester, please send a registration request to gmbaadvising@utdallas.edu from your UTD email account.

Profile of Two New Online Professors:
We would like to welcome two new professors to the online teaching faculty. Prof. John Barden is taking over the AIM 6201.0G1 core course, which has been taught by Prof. Mark Anderson. Prof. Jun Zhang, alternating with Prof. Milind Dawande, will be teaching the OPRE 6302 core course. Below are the brief introductions about these two new online course instructors.

John Barden

John Barden is a Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Public Accountant in New York State. He has over 20 years of corporate accounting experience working with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Paramount Pictures and Azon Corporation. He is a Senior Professional Accounting Lecturer at The University of Texas at Dallas, teaching Principles of Accounting and Managerial Accounting.

Previously John Barden taught at the School of Management at Binghamton University. He graduated from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York with a BS in Accounting in 1983, and an MBA from Manhattan College in New York City in 1988.

Jun Zhang

Jun Zhang is an assistant professor of Operations Management and Information Systems in the School of Management at the University of Texas at Dallas. He received his Ph.D. in Operations Management in 2000 from the Graduate School of Industrial Administration (GSIA, now Tepper School of Business) of Carnegie Mellon University, in addition to a Bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China.

His research interests are supply chain management, interfaces of operations and finance/marketing, and inventory management. His papers have been published in journals such as Management Science, Naval Research Logistics, Production and Operations Management, IIE Transactions, Operations Research Letters, and Interfaces.

Prof. Zhang is on the editorial boards of Production and Operations Management, and Decision Sciences. He is the cluster co-chair of manufacturing in 2007 INFORMS Annual Meeting and the track co-chair of service operations in 2007 POM Annual Meeting.

Prof. Zhang teaches undergraduate and graduate operations management courses. He is also the course coordinator for the undergraduate OM core course.

GMBA Online/AIM Online Blog Site Updates

It has been four months since we set up the GMBA/AIM Online Blog Site: http://gmba.wordpress.com/. The academic advisor for online courses and GMBA staff have been regularly posting announcements, reminders and updates on this blog site. The blog has been receiving many hits. We hope you have found this site useful and helpful in keeping up to date with the latest information on your online learning. The link to this blog has been included in all WebCT online courses. We’d like to hear what you think about this blog. Please remember all blog entries are open for comments. If you have any feedback or would like to share any thoughts, you may start commenting!
Policy on WebCT Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

During the Summer term, weather and electric power infrastructure related problems caused some WebCT server and other UTD computer system downtime.

The university is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should report any problems to the instructor and also email gmabsupport@utdallas.edu. The instructor and GMBA Staff members will respond to students request at the earliest possible time during the next working day.

Important Reminders

Please note all important reminders and announcements will be posted on the GMBA/AIM Online Blog Site. Please bookmark this URL and check this site regularly for all reminders, news and updates: http://gmba.wordpress.com/

[check webtrends link]