



# SOM eLearning Newsletter

School of Management • The University of Texas at Dallas



Get the semester started off right with all of the news, events and announcements for your Summer 2009 online courses from the SOM eLearning Team.

- [Welcome to Summer 2009](#)
- [News From Global MBA Online \(GMBA\)](#)
- [News From Accounting Information Management \(AIM\)](#)
- [Meet Our Faculty](#)
- [Meet Our Students](#)
- [Important Reminders](#)

## SOM eLearning Newsletter Issue # 5, Summer 2009

### Contacts

Online Course Registration/Advising  
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Online Course Support  
<http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>

GMBA Program Contact  
George Barnes  
Director  
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AIM Program Contact  
Amy Troutman  
Assistant Director  
[amybass@utdallas.edu](mailto:amybass@utdallas.edu)

SOM eLearning Contact  
Darren Crone, Ed.D.  
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[darren.crone@utdallas.edu](mailto:darren.crone@utdallas.edu)

UTD Help Desk  
<http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/helpdesk/>

UTD eLearning Support  
<http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>

UT TeleCampus Tech Support  
[Help Desk](#)

UT TeleCampus  
Student Services Support

## Welcome to the Summer 2009 Semester!

Financial Times recently listed the UT Dallas School of Management in the top 30 MBA distance learning and online providers in the nation by number of enrolled students. This semester we will be offering 37 online courses and there are several new electives that are under development.

In our last newsletter, we offered the following scenario: A friend or co-worker is considering beginning an online degree at The University of Texas at Dallas School of Management. Based on your experience, what would you tell him/her?

Here is a summary of your feedback:

1. The online degree programs are convenient and high quality.
2. Self discipline, motivation, and time management are essential to succeed.
3. Once you get used to the online format, it is better than classroom studies.
4. Classes are harder, but being able to study on your own time is worth it.
5. Very good professors.
6. Group projects are challenging and most students are good to work with.
7. Not having the face-to-face interaction with professors and students can be challenging.

Several of our courses require a proctored final exam. As you may know, we have offered a proctoring service here at the School of Management for the last two semesters. We are always looking for ways to improve things and would like to hear about your experience with the proctored exam process and any suggestions you may have. If you have taken a proctored exam (either at UTD or remotely), please take a minute to complete this short survey:

**[\\*\\*Proctored Exam Survey\\*\\*](#)**

Best of luck in your courses in Summer 2009 and beyond!

[TeleCampus@utsystem.edu](mailto:TeleCampus@utsystem.edu)

UTD Records Office  
[records@utdallas.edu](mailto:records@utdallas.edu)

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## Helpful Links

[Global MBA Online Program](#)

[Accounting and Information  
Management Online Program](#)

[SOM eLearning Blog](#)

[UTD Distance Learning](#)

[Information Page for Registered  
Online Course Students](#)

[Getting Started with WebCT](#)

[Textbook Ordering - MBA Direct](#)

[Textbook Ordering - Off-Campus  
Books](#)

[Proctored Exam Info Site](#)

[Academic Calendar](#)

[Graduate Catalog](#)

[Schedule of Classes](#)

[Galaxy Login](#)

[Access Your Records - SIS](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

[UT TeleCampus](#)

[UTTC Tech Support Page](#)

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[Comments and Feedback](#)

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[SOM eLearning Team  
School of Management](#)

-Darren Crone, Ed. D., SOM eLearning Manager

[Top](#)

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## News from Global MBA Online (GMBA)

Have you noticed that since summer of 2008 many of your colleagues in 8 of the 11 MBA core courses are actually MDs and Doctors of Osteopathy? No, that is not because the challenge of these courses requires medical assistance! Instead, it reflects the interest of several physicians in the MS healthcare degree program to earn a MBA degree. The healthcare classes are residential, and meet every two months for four days on campus (one class is held in Washington, D.C. for 5 days). Physicians can complete the highly interactive and case-based program in 14-16 months. Typically, physicians begin the online MBA courses before they complete the MS coursework, and then complete the MBA degree within 2-3 years. Perhaps the next time you have a group assignment, you will be working with one of the physicians from the healthcare program.

-George Barnes, Global MBA Online Program Director

[Top](#)

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## News From Accounting Information Management (AIM)

### AIM Online Growth

The Accounting and Information Management (AIM) online program is growing! Here are only a few ways:

- In the 2008-2009 academic year, the AIM Area offered over 40 separate course sections to over 600 students, more than any previous year.
- In the fall of 2008, the AIM online degree has been approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the recognized regional accrediting body in U.S. Southern states.
- In the fall of 2008, the AIM Area and faculty celebrated the 6-year anniversary of offering online courses.

We will continue to grow in the 2009-2010 academic year by offering even more sections of AIM courses and explore ways to offer more electives in AIM.

-Amy Troutman, Accounting and Information Management Online Program Director

[Top](#)

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## Meet Our Faculty



**Peter Petrik** is an entrepreneur, business proprietor, and a frequent strategy consultant to business owners. He speaks five languages and his credentials include a Master of Business Administration degree complemented with a

[University of Texas at Dallas](#)

May 2009

Editor: Darren Crone

Master of International Management degree from Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Peter's experiences include international assignments and practical business knowledge in information technology, sales and marketing, finance, and business development. This broad awareness allows him to provide insights to business owners and managers that uncover the natural skills and principles essential to evoking full potential.



**Amal El-Ashmawi** will be teaching a new section of FIN 6301, Financial Management. She was born in Cairo, Egypt and studied in Switzerland, Kuwait, Egypt and the United States. Academic and professional activities include:

- B.B.A. in Management from Kuwait University ♦ with honors
- MBA from the University of Cairo
- MS from UTD
- A.B.D. in Finance at UTD
- Over 20 years experience teaching both undergraduate and graduate Finance courses at UTD and UTA
- Experience working with U.S. and foreign companies in finance and related areas
- Served on the board of trustees/directors and on the finance committees of several non-profit and for-profit organizations
- Co-authored a paper on Eastern European Economies with Professor Evan Anderson

[Top](#)

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## Meet Our Students



The eLearning Team invites you to meet our students by viewing a different student profile each newsletter. This summer's featured student is Charles Laffiteau.

- **What degree are you seeking?** Dual Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies and International Management Studies
- **Employment details:**
  - Where do you work?** Metro Eireann Newspaper in Dublin Ireland
  - What is your position?** International Correspondent and weekly opinion columnist
  - How long have you been there?** Since October 2006

**-What do you want to do after you finish your degree?** Pursue a Ph.D. in politics

- **How many online courses have you taken?** 10
- **Why did you decide to take online courses?** I received a graduate student scholarship from UT Dallas International Education Fund to go abroad and study Globalization in Ireland and decided to remain in Ireland and finish my IMS degree online.
- **How is the online experience different from the traditional classroom?** While I miss the face-to-face contact with the other students and instructors, frequent emails and occasional web conferences still allow enough interaction to simulate the classroom experience. Online courses allow me more time flexibility but are also a bit more demanding in terms of the total amount of time I have to put into reading and studying versus classroom courses.
- **What makes an online course effective?** Web conferences help simulate the classroom experience but the flexibility in terms of scheduling one's time allows you to concentrate on your course material when your time permits rather than running off to class (or sometimes missing class) when personal or business problems are demanding your attention.
- **Who was your favorite professor and why?** Dr. Kaplan because of her emphasis on real world business issues and or problems with her group projects, video blogs, discussion topics and web conferences, as well as how to resolve them by using your experience and or what you learn in the course.
- **Is there any advice you can give to other online students?** You must be very disciplined in terms of managing your time if you want to excel in the SOM's online graduate student courses.
- **Do you have any additional comments?** Don't expect that you will have to spend less time taking a course, and or reading or studying because you don't have to show up in a classroom for several hours each week.

[Top](#)

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## Important Reminders

- **Online Teaching Award Nomination**  
If you haven't submitted your nomination for the spring 2009 semester, you still have the opportunity to acknowledge a professor who has done an excellent job in teaching an online course. Please submit your [Teaching Award Nomination!](#)
- **UTD SOM in Second Life**  
[http://slurl.com/secondlife/UTD\\_SOM/141/70/2](http://slurl.com/secondlife/UTD_SOM/141/70/2)  
  
For more information about the UTD SOM island, please visit:  
<http://som.utdallas.edu/somResources/eLearning/faculty/secondLife.php>
- **Join Our Facebook Group: UTD SOM Online Students**  
The eLearning Team has created a group in [Facebook](#) called "UTD SOM Online Students". This group is intended for UT Dallas students (past and present) who are taking or have taken online courses through

the UTD School of Management online programs.

- **SOM eLearning Blog**

For the most up to date eLearning information visit our blog at

<http://gmba.wordpress.com/>

[Top](#)