School of Management

Get the semester started off right with all of the news, events, and announcements from the SOM eLearning Team.

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SOM eLearning Newsletter Issue # 11, Spring 2011

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UTD Help Desk

Helpful Links

GMBA Online Program

Advising

Thank you for giving us your input regarding your advising and registration experience. The fifty eight informative replies we received give us a better idea about your needs and what we can do to improve the process. During our previous semester, we were able to work with the Office of the Registrar and tackle some of the basic math, finance, and accounting pre-requisite concerns. It provided us a good starting point that we will continue to explore.

Other changes will begin this Summer/Fall 2011 registration period. As ORION is your primary resource when registering, we will make proctored exam information more easily accessible by adding it to the class notes. Additionally, we will denote those online courses that require a waiting list and give more direct contact information.

The number of online courses available is increasing, which has prompted us to start taking a look at how we can provide you the information you need in a more centralized location on our SOM website. There, we will be able to outline the pieces you need including upcoming courses, sample course sequences, and descriptions for possible concentrations.

As our online programs evolve, we want to make sure that we make all possible adjustments in our Advising Office to assist with any registration steps. Feel free to get in touch with me if you have any other comments you would like to share or have any questions.

-Corina Cantua, Academic Advisor

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SOM eLearning

We are currently conducting a search for a new Learning Management System to house our online courses (as well as courses with online components). Our current system is nearing end of life, as all software eventually does. The new system will not be implemented until summer 2012 at the earliest. We would like your help with this process. It is our goal to select the product that best suits the needs of our students. Is there something that really bugs you about eLearning? Is there something that you wish it would do but doesn't? Is it perfect as is? Please take a few minutes to complete this exceptionally short survey.

Learning Management System Survey!

In other news, the School of Management eLearning Team will now be known as the UT Dallas eLearning Team. While we have gone through a bit of an organizational change, this should be transparent to students. All of your contacts (proctored exams, help desk, advising) will remain the same. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at darren.crone@utdallas.edu.

-Darren Crone, Ed.D., eLearning Director

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Global MBA Online (GMBA)

eLearning Team
School of Management
University of Texas at Dallas

March 2011
 Editor: Rita Cubie

Send us your comments and feedback!

GMBA Director farewell

It was mid-year 1999 that Dean Hasan Pirkul invited me to start an online extension of the School of Management's Professional (part-time) MBA program. Two courses were developed over the summer permitting the Global MBA Online (GMBA) to get its start that fall. The first Instructional Designer was hired in early spring of 2000, and the rest is a rich tapestry of successful accomplishments. To name a few:

- full MBA online available by end of 2002

- 38 electives (not including AIM) developed by end of 2010 permitting online concentration in international management, information technology, marketing, entrepreneurship, finance, as well as accounting (drawing on the online MS AIM curriculum)

- 569 GMBA graduates through fall 2010

- recent enrollments per semester over 200 online MBA students (peaked at 290 in fall 2009)

- national and international recognition of the GMBA program

- state-of-the-art production studio, and eLearning team in place serving the School of Management.
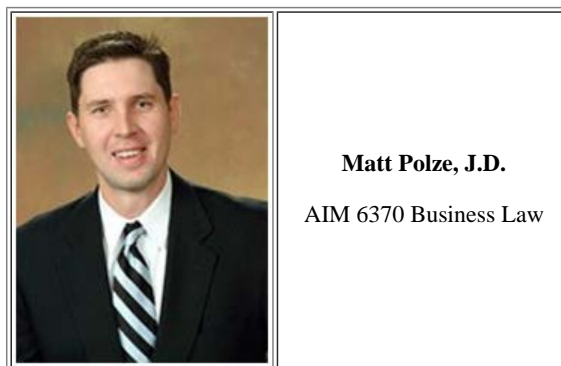
After 24 years at UTD, the last 11 as director of the GMBA, which followed 16 years in international business positions, I have decided to retire on May 31, 2011. My successor is Dr. Larry Chasteen who has both a Masters degree and PhD from UTD. But I will continue to teach for the next year or so. Look for my GMBA courses IMS 6302 Legal Aspects of International Business Transactions (next offered fall 2011) and IMS 6310 International Marketing (2012).

-George Barnes, Global MBA Online Program Director

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Meet Our Faculty

Matt Polze, J.D.

AIM 6370 Business Law

Matt Polze has been a member of the faculty at The University of Texas at Dallas since August 2006. He serves as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs in the School of Management, Director of the Management Honors Program, and Co-Director of the Professional Program in Accounting. Matt teaches business and public law and employment law to undergraduates. He also teaches business law to graduate students in the online format. Mr. Polze was awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for the School of Management for 2007 – 2008 and the Outstanding Online Teaching Award for 2009-2010. Prior to coming to UT Dallas Mr. Polze worked for Arthur Andersen as a process risk consultant and then at Baker Botts, LLP as a corporate and securities lawyer. He obtained a Doctor of Jurisprudence, Master of Professional Accounting and Bachelor of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin. He has been a licensed attorney in the state of Texas since November 2003.

AIM 6370 – Business Law: Business Law is a very enjoyable class for me to teach, and hopefully an enjoyable one for the students in the class. One of the things I like about the class is the breadth of material that we are able to cover. The topics covered in the class range widely, and include (among others):

- Background on the American Legal System
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Contracts
- Employment Law
- Choice of Entity

Intellectual Property and Internet Law

These topics, along with the others we study, are important for anyone that is obtaining a business degree. The material covered in class helps to inform students about how businesses operate in the legal environment in The United States. I really enjoy bringing examples of current events to class discussion, and with the material we cover this is very easy. All you have to do is pick up the newspaper or turn on the news to realize that the law has a major impact on so many current issues. My hope is that when students leave the class they will have a much better understanding of how the law impacts business and current events around the globe.
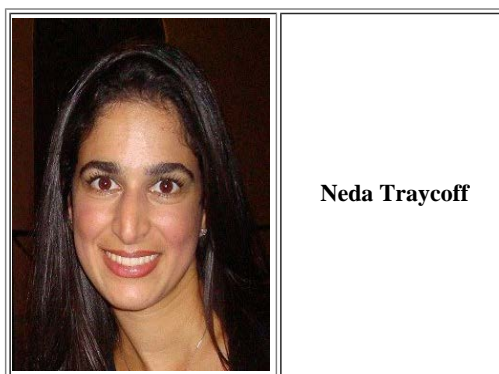
I truly enjoy teaching in the online format because it gives me a unique opportunity to interact with many students that I would not otherwise get to work with. The online class format also allows for more student interaction in many ways. Students that may be too shy to speak up in a large lecture class are often great at expressing their views in online discussion forums. This helps to add diverse perspectives to the class, and it enriches the learning experience for all involved (including for me).

Teaching is a true pleasure, and I love the opportunity to work with so many great students!!

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Meet Our Students

Neda Traycoff

The eLearning Team invites you to meet our students by viewing a different profile each newsletter. This semester's featured student is Neda Traycoff.

- **Name:** Neda Traycoff
- **What degree are you seeking?**
  I am seeking to obtain my CPA certification.
- **Where do you work?**
  Robert Half Management Resources
- **What is your position?**
  Accounting Consultant
- **How long have you been there?**
  2 years. I took a leave of absence in order to take the CPA exam.
- **How many online courses have you taken?**
  This is my first online course.
- **Why did you decide to take online courses?**
  I decided to take an online course for the sheer convenience of it.
- **How is the online experience different from the traditional classroom?**
  You take things at your own pace. You sit down and have class when you're in the mood to have class. I really enjoy and prefer this experience.
- **What makes an online course effective?**
  What makes the online course effective is learning in an environment that is pleasing and familiar to the student. There's just something different about not being in a classroom. I don't mind sitting for a few hours in a comfortable chair in my own home.
- **Is there any advice you can give to other online students?**
  I would tell other online students not to take the convenience for granted. Online classes can move at a fast pace and if you're not diligent and committed, you'll fall behind. Don't procrastinate.

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Important Reminders

- **Online Teaching Award Nomination**

Please consider nominating an instructor for a job well done: Teaching Award Nomination

- **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/

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