



School of Management



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

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SOM eLearning Newsletter Issue # 12, Summer 2011

Advising

Fall 2011 registration is in full swing. As you start looking at your options for this coming semester, keep a few items in mind:

When you search for accounting courses, in the [Course Lookup](#), remember to choose ACCT as the class prefix. Beginning this fall 2011 semester, all accounting courses will no longer be noted as AIM.

Contact your academic advisor for a degree audit and graduation application instructions by the end of this month if fall 2011 will be your graduating semester.

If you register for fall 2011 coursework on or before July 27th, payment will be due on that date.

Always remember to periodically check your student account through [Galaxy](#) to make sure you are maintaining the required degree GPA, review and address any holds, and update your contact information. Contact the [Advising Office](#) with any questions or concerns.

-Corina Cantua, Academic Advisor

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[UTD eLearning Support](#)

[UTD Help Desk](#)

eLearning Team

Thank you to everyone who answered last semester's survey question "If you could change one thing about the eLearning Learning Management System, what would it be?" We received 49 responses and the most common themes were a desire to integrate external tools such as Google Documents, Facebook, and external email clients with eLearning (10 responses), a cleaner, more intuitive interface (10 responses), and enhanced mobile functionality (4). Six of you were happy with eLearning as it is. Other comments centered on usability, browser issues, and speed of the system.

Here is a sampling of your comments:

"If you try and download a specific document, ex: syllabus, it asks if you really want to download it, then kicks you back out to the main screen with the course selections on it."

"Integrate mail from eLearning with standard UTD mail (Zmail), so that I can send mail to any instructor."

"The user interface is primitive - it should be reformatted to resemble that of any other modern site internet users have come to expect and navigate."

"More flexible email system, more user-friendly features. Better look and feel."

"Tighter integration into common internet networking tools such as personal email (Gmail, work mail, etc.), Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. The worst part about eLearning is that you can't contribute to the discussions or even know about new posts unless you are logged into eLearning. Or provide an iPhone or mobile app that allows quick easy access to discussion forums that are usually a requirement for the grade."

This feedback is very much appreciated and will be used to help us select the next eLearning system.

This semester's survey is on eLearning Team communications. We try our best to get you important information in a

Helpful Links

[MBA Online Program](#)

[ACCT Online Program](#)

[ITM Online Program](#)

[SOM eLearning Blog](#)

[UTD Distance Learning](#)

[Getting Started With Your Course](#)

[Computer Setup for eLearning](#)

[UTD Bookstore](#)

[Off-Campus Books](#)

[Proctored Exam Info](#)

[Academic Calendar](#)

[Graduate Catalog](#)

[Schedule of Classes](#)

[Galaxy Login](#)

[Access Your Records](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

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[School of Management](#)

[University of Texas at Dallas](#)

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Editor: Rita Cubie

[Send us your comments and feedback!](#)

timely manner. We also try not to inundate you with things that you really don't care about. Please take a few moments to complete this brief survey:

[eLearning Communication Survey](#)

Thank you and have a great semester!

-Darren Crone, Ed.D., eLearning Director

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Larry Chasteen

UTD Online
MBA Director

UTD Online MBA Program

I would like to introduce myself as the new Director of UTD's Online MBA Program replacing George Barnes who retired in May. I have taught online programs at other universities and I think UTD has one of the best. Therefore, I don't see any major changes in the program other than changing the program name to the UTD Online MBA Program to avoid confusion with one of UTD's executive MBA programs.

I am not really new to UTD having earned an MA from the School of Management in 1984 and a PhD in 2003. I have also been a visiting professor in the UTD's Executive MBA program since 2004. Before I began my academic career, I was a program manager at Texas Instruments and Raytheon - my undergraduate degree was from SMU in engineering. I also served in the US Air Force as a B-52 pilot.

I am currently interested in two areas of research. The first is Leadership - what it takes to move from an individual contributor to a manager in a firm. I am also interested in Corporate Entrepreneurship and what large firms must do to stay innovative. This was the topic of my PhD dissertation at UTD and was related to my previous work experience at Texas Instruments and Raytheon.

I will teach several strategy courses including a new course in the fall - BPS 6311, Strategy Implementation. I plan to develop this into an online course by next summer. I hope to see some of you in my classes and look forward to answering any of your other questions.

-Larry Chasteen, UTD Online MBA Program Director

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Online MS in Information Technology and Management (MS ITM) Program

The Management Information Systems area at UT Dallas currently offers a number of graduate courses online. These online courses are available to all students whether they are doing most of their coursework online or on campus. In fact, a student can complete all requirements of the MS ITM program by taking only online courses. Please visit <http://som.utdallas.edu/academicAreas/isom/isPrograms/onlineCourses.php> for the list of online courses to be offered during the 2011-12 academic year.

As the MIS area coordinator, one of the questions I often get asked is whether online courses can provide the same kind of learning experience as in-class courses. Based on my own experience with offering both online and in-class MIS 6308 courses over several years, my answer to the question is in the affirmative. The online and in-class offerings of MIS 6308 are similar (and often identical) in several respects. Both have the same syllabus, same sequence of topics, same group project, similar assignments, similar exam including a proctored final exam, and similar opportunities for discussion of topics. The tools that are available as part of eLearning make all these possible. However, in order to make full use of the online learning environment, a student has to be much more

disciplined and regular in study habits. Though the online class allows the student flexibility in terms of when he/she wants to study, it is easy to fall behind the rest of the class if the student does not stick to the suggested schedule. In a class such as MIS 6308 where there is a semester-long group project, the student and the project team is likely to suffer if they do not stick to the same schedule. Another important aspect of online courses a student should keep in mind is the amount of data the instructor has available at his/her disposal about the student's participation in discussions and in general his/her involvement in the class. Often, I can assess the student's class participation better when I teach the course online than in-class.

Other instructors of online MIS classes have similar experiences as mine. Further, online and in-class versions of other MIS courses are similar to those of MIS 6308. I believe that online courses provide a very useful and effective alternative to in-class offerings especially for students that are unable to take in-class offerings for various reasons. We, in the information systems area, are planning to bring online versions of several other courses in the near future, and we expect these courses to be popular among all School of Management students.

-Srinivasan Raghunathan, MIS Online Program Director

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Meet Our Faculty



Tiffany Bortz

AIM 6332
Intermediate
Financial
Accounting 2

Tiffany Bortz has been a member of the faculty at The University of Texas at Dallas since May 2001. She serves as the Associate Director of the Undergraduate Accounting Program and the Faculty Advisor of the Lambda Omnicron Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the Accounting Honors Fraternity.

She teaches undergraduate Intermediate Financial Accounting 2 in the classroom and graduate level Intermediate Financial Accounting II and Auditing online. She recently began teaching the Financial Accounting and Reporting Section of the CPA Review Course offered at UT Dallas.

Ms. Bortz was awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for the School of Management for 2008 – 2009.

Ms. Bortz graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and a Master of Science in Accounting. She was an employee of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), formerly of Price Waterhouse. She worked in the assurance and business advisory services practice (primarily the telecommunications industry). After leaving PWC, she was employed by TravisWolff as a manager in the assurance practice (primarily the construction industry).

Ms. Bortz has been a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the state of Texas since 1996.

AIM 6332 – Intermediate Financial Accounting 2: The Intermediate Financial Accounting Courses are some of the most important courses in the accounting curriculum because these courses teach a foundation in financial accounting principles. All accounting majors, regardless of their ultimate career goals, need a solid understanding of financial accounting principles in order to be successful. Intermediate Financial Accounting 2 addresses issues related to the measurement and reporting of:

- Current Liabilities
- Bonds
- Leases
- Pensions
- Shareholders Equity Accounts
- Accounting Changes and Error Corrections

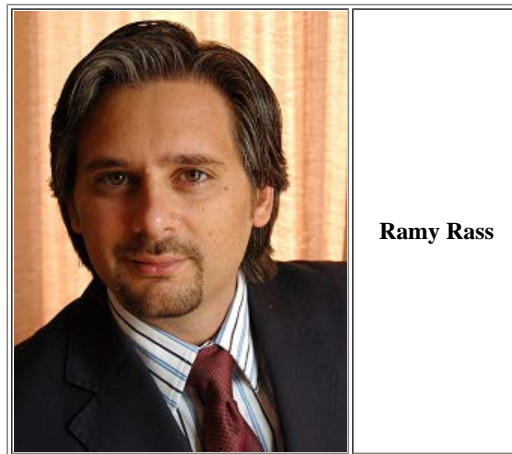
Current generally accepted accounting principles for financial reporting are analyzed as is their effect on the presentation of financial results by corporations and other entities. I enjoy teaching this course because I believe in its importance toward preparing accounting students for the profession.

I enjoy teaching this course online. I strive to bring the same level of academic excellence as I do in the classroom. Because of the voluminous amount of material covered in this course, it is an ongoing challenge for me to ensure the level of learning is comparable. The online venue is a great alternative for those students with non-traditional schedules (i.e. full-time employees; overseas deployment; individuals with families). Because of the diverse population of students in an online course, this brings a unique perspective to the course that I do not always get in the classroom.

I love teaching! It gives me great satisfaction to know that I am helping others to achieve their goals. I hope to continue teaching for many years to come!

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Meet Our Students



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

- **Name:** Ramy Rass
- **What degree are you seeking?**
Online MBA
- **Where do you work?**
Alcatel-Lucent in Cairo, Egypt
- **What is your position?**
MEA Regional Sr. Manager-Export Control & Compliance
- **How long have you been there?**
I've been with Alcatel for about a year now. What originally brought me to Cairo was my prior roll at Ernst & Young.
- **What do you want to do after you finish your degree?**
After successfully completing my degree (targeted graduation May 2012), I hope to further enhance my career growth within my company.
- **How many online courses have you taken?**
I have completed 38 credit hours.
- **Why did you decide to take online courses?**
Originally, I was enrolled in the Professional MBA and would attend classes at night after work. When the opportunity raised to move with my company to the Middle East, I was very grateful to have the flexibility to shift to the online program.
- **How is the online experience different from the traditional classroom?**
One of the major differences is in time management to keep up with the class requirements. While networking is easier in the traditional class arena, I have managed to build a nice network of co-MBA classmates over the years.
- **What makes an online course effective?**
The ability to not be bound by geographic limitations and pursue a highly respected degree from a great university is where I find the online courses to be most effective.
- **Who was your favorite professor and why?**
I have really enjoyed all my professors. I am currently taking a Business Law class with Professor Mathew Polze which I am enjoying tremendously.
- **Is there any advice you can give to other online students?**
Like everything else in life, the more you invest and put into it, the more you get out of it. With the online courses, you have to make sure to be disciplined enough to keep track of the requirements and the readings..

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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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