Summer is fast approaching and we are eager to share many of the exciting things that have happened in the ISOM Department recently.

After more than 12 years serving as chair of the ISOM Department, Dr. R.C. Baker stepped down as chair in 2012 to return to his first love of teaching. The department is grateful for his years of leadership and resulting improvements over those years, and looks forward to his continuing contributions to the department.

In Fall 2013 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved our BS in Information Systems and MS in Information Systems degrees as STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) degrees. The STEM designation offers new advantages to students and new grant opportunities for faculty, and we look forward to leveraging this new designation.

Our latest initiative has been the development of a new graduate degree program: MS in Business Analytics. This College of Business program will be housed in the ISOM Department. To develop the best program possible, we formed an industry advisory board to help us develop the curriculum. Their assistance and input was greatly appreciated, and we feel we have an excellent new program as a result. This new program proposal is in its final stage of approvals with the University and the UT System. We hope to begin offering the MS in Business Analytics in Fall 2014.

Lastly, I want to thank Dr. Carolyn Davis for stepping up to create this newsletter. Going forward we plan to publish an ISOM newsletter each Fall and Spring to keep you updated on our activities and opportunities. These are just a few exciting things. Please read on to learn what else the ISOM Department has been up to!

Greg Frazier
Chair, ISOM Department
NEW INITIATIVES

A new STEM master’s program is being planned. The Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) is designed to prepare graduates to identify and implement opportunities for the strategic use of business analytics with an emphasis on business. Students gain knowledge of a broad range of disciplines and functions in the business as well as specialized knowledge of business analytics and its accompanying skill set. An intensive curriculum covering business intelligence, data mining, econometrics, marketing research and statistical techniques prepares students for careers in the field of business analytics.

An advisory council was formed to help develop the MSBA with members from Accenture, Alcon, BNSF, Bell Helicopter, Deloitte, Lockheed Martin, Pepsico, Sogeti USA, Texas Health Resources, Texas Instruments, Transamerica, and USAA.

NEW COURSES

Our undergraduate and graduate curriculums now offer new courses and greater flexibility. INSY 3309 Python Programming, OPMA 4303 Introduction to Management Sciences, and OPMA 4314 Services Operations have been added to our undergraduate offerings. INSY 5376 Big Data Analytics, INSY 5377 Web and Social Analytics, and INSY 5378 Data Science: A Programming Approach and OPMA 5362 Services Operations are new to our graduate offerings.

In addition, we are offering an online version of INSY 3330 E-Commerce as well as piloting a new course this Fall, INSY 4331 Mobile App Development.

RENOVED FACULTY

In a recent article due to be published in The Journal of Systems and Software (2014) Dr. Sridhar Nerur is ranked among the top 3 researchers on Agile Software Development. Further, it ranks UTA among the top 3 institutions that have produced research on agile. “Assessment of Institutions, Scholars, and Contributions on Agile Software Development” (2001-2012), by Chuang, S.W., Luor, T., and Lu, H.P., can be found at: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jss.2014.03.006

Professor Radha Mahapatra and Associate Professor Sridhar Nerur recently published “Distributed Cognition in Software Design: An Experimental Investigation of the Role of Design Patterns and Collaboration” in the prestigious MIS Quarterly. MIS Quarterly is the premier academic journal in the information systems discipline.

(Dr. Mahapatra and Dr. Nerur)
DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

ISOM sponsored presentations from two distinguished scholars this year. Dr. Kay-Yut Chen received his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology and is currently working as a Principal Research Scientist at Yahoo Labs researching game theory and application of behavioral economics to business problems. Dr. Chen presented “Banded Rationality in Operations: Theory, Experiment and Practice”.

Dr. Sudha Ram received her Ph.D. in Information Systems from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently the Anheuser-Busch Professor of Entrepreneurship & Innovation in the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona. She is also the director of the Advanced Database Research Group (ADRG) and INSITE: Center for Business Intelligence and Analytics at the University of Arizona. She presented “Examining News Article Propagation via Social Media using Network Science”.

VISITING SCHOLARS

The ISOM department has hosted three visiting scholars during the 2013-2014 academic year. Visiting scholars often come to universities to work with faculty in various research areas.

Currently, Dr. Yoosin Kim has joined our department as a post-doctoral research fellow. Dr. Kim obtained his Ph.D. last year in MIS from Kookmin University in Seoul, Korea with a specialization in data analytics. Prior to this, he had worked as a data scientist for a number of tech firms, including Accenture. His expertise includes text mining for sentiment analysis, content classification, stock prediction, and statistical tools such as R, SPSS, SAS for machine training like DT, ANN, SVM, and naïve Bayesian algorithm. His interests are in a prediction and recommendation system using Big-Data analysis for customer behavior pattern recognition, SNS content analysis and collaboration filtering.

Dr. HaiJie Yu from the School of Energy Science and Engineering University of Electronic Science and Technology of China has interests in environmental impacts to supply chain and operations management.

Dr. Linghong Zhang from Tongji University in Shanghai researches the area of optimal price and ordering policies with supply chain coordination for contracts of perishable products.
GET INVOLVED

There’s no better way to network and stay in touch with industry than to join an industry-sponsored, student organization.

The Association for Information Technology Professionals (AITP) is the professional association comprised of career minded individuals who seek to expand their potential -- employers, employees, managers, programmers, and many others. The organization seeks to provide avenues for all their members to be teachers as well as students and to make contacts with other members in the Information Systems field, all in an effort to become more marketable in rapidly changing, technological careers.

The American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS) Student Chapter at UTA has been re-chartered and is now in its second semester of activity. The mission of the APICS Student Chapter is to facilitate learning outside the classroom, to provide valuable networking opportunities with current and future industry leaders, and to provide students with the tools needed to succeed in today’s professional workforce.

We now have a student chapter of the Institute for Supply Management (ISM). ISM is very helpful for our Operations Management students. First, they provide educational opportunities that supplement our students’ coursework. This training leads to a Certified Professional in Supply Management (CPSM) certification which is highly valued in the industry. Second both the Dallas and Fort Worth chapters provide numerous networking opportunities for our students. Finally, the Fort Worth Chapter, with which UTA is affiliated, has provided several $1,000 scholarships for our students on a yearly basis for the past several years.

For further information contact Mr. Ken Sears (ksears@uta.edu) for AITP, Dr. Randy Napier (rnapier@uta.edu) for APICS, and Dr. Edmund Prater (eprater@uta.edu) for ISM.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships are an important way to get your foot in the door. You receive credit for work; you receive work experience; you make industry contacts; you get to see how the real world works. And, many times internships can turn into permanent jobs.

ISOM is busy cultivating industry relationships and identifying potential internship and job opportunities for our students. There has been significant increased interest in our students for these positions. In addition, the College of Business has established a Director for Corporate Relations, Ms. Melanie McGee, to assist with this initiative.

Position listings can be found at the department website, http://wweb.uta.edu/insyopma/jobs.html and at the University Career Services website, http://www.uta.edu/careers/. For complete internship details see: http://wweb.uta.edu/business/ugadvise/special_progs.html#Internships or http://wweb.uta.edu/insyopma/internship.html.
In Fall 2013 we said hello to new faculty
Dr. David Crockett, Ms. Puspa Mahapatra,
Dr. Brad Masters, Dr. Billy Moore,
Dr. Randy Napier, Dr. Kurt Schmitz, and
Dr. Michel Whittenberg.

Our goodbyes, congratulations, and good luck
go to our new graduating Ph.D.s,
Dr. Kimberly Whitehead (OPMA) and
Dr. James Brown (OPMA).

The department awarded the Suzanne Sparvero
Memorial Scholarship to the following students
for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Kyle Silberbauer, INSY BS
Glenroy Boatswain, INSY BS
**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**


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Dr. Edmund Prater and Dr. Kimberly Whitehead co-authored *An Introduction to Supply Chain Management*.

“Writing the book with Dr. Prater was a great experience. We tried to keep a practitioner tone based on our combined years of practical experience. Feedback is positive from both academics and practitioners.”

---*Kimberly Whitehead*
O. Al-Laymoun presented “The Impact of Adoption of Social Networking Services on the Firms’ Stock Prices: An Institutional Theory Perspective” at The General Business Conference at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, April 10-13, 2014.


Indika Dissanayake presented “Knowledge Management in software Development: The Case of Agile Software”, at the AMCIS Conference in Chicago, IL, August 14-17, 2014.

Indika Dissanayake presented “Virtual Team Performance in Crowdsourcing Contests” at INFORMS Conference, Minneapolis, MN, October 6-8, 2013.


Radha Mahapatra presented “Adoption of Telemedicine – Challenges and Opportunities”, at the AMCIS Conference in Chicago, IL, August 14-17, 2013.


Adel Yazdanmehr presented “The Impact of Adoption of Social Networking Services on the Firms’ Stock Prices: An Institutional Theory Perspective” at The General Business Conference at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, April 10-13, 2014.

Jie Zhang presented Social Media Blog Sentiments and Brand Performances Competitive and Asymmetric Effects at CIST and INFORMS Conferences, Minneapolis, MN, October 4-8, 2013.

Sridhar Nerur, M.K. Raja, Jingguo Wang, Jie Zhang and Indika Dissanayake attended the Workshop on Social and Business Analytics at McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin on March 27-29, 2014.

Sridhar Nerur, Randy Napier, and Ganapathiraman Raman attended the University Alliances Winter 2013 Workshop in Huntsville, Texas on January 6-9, 2014.
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