

# MABS MESSENGER

April & May 2006

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## Birthdays

**Jeff Rooks**  
April 7

**Mary-Kathryn Zachary**  
May 1

**Happy Birthday!**

## Departmental Announcements

### TOP STORY!

**Brad Prince** successfully defended his dissertation on March 24, 2006 at Auburn University.

**Bill Hargrave** presented his paper "Electronic Resumes -- Why and How" at the Southeastern Business and Marketing Education Conference.

**Sunil Hazari** had his chapter, "Bringing Secure Wireless Technology to the Bedside: A Case Study of two Canadian Healthcare Organizations" accepted for publication in a forthcoming book, Web Mobile-Based Applications for Healthcare Management.

**Alexa North** and **Bill Hargrave** presented a research paper, "Online, Entry-Level Classified Ads and the Application Process," at the Association for Business Communication Southeast/East U.S. Conference in Tampa, FL, March 17, 2006.

**Beth Clenney** and **Harrison McCraw** presented a paper entitled "Meeting the Changing Requirements of Accounting Education" at the Southeast Regional meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute in Wilmington, NC, February 22, 2006. In addition, McCraw chaired a session and discussed a paper.

**Congratulations to All!**





## Spring 2006 Senior Exit Surveys

Earlier this semester we redesigned the **Senior Exit Survey** in our department. Now, we have some results from this survey. With 30 students responding thus far, I wanted to provide you with some of the highlights.

- 70% reported that they were “Very Satisfied” with their decision to earn a B.B.A. in our department. Another 27% noted that they were “Satisfied” with this decision.
- 63% reported that it was “Very Likely” that they would recommend our program to a friend. Another 33% noted that it was “Likely” that they would recommend our program.
- 93% reported that they would prefer to meet with the same advisor each semester.
- 70% reported that they had visited UWG Career Services during their time at UWG.
- 70% reported that they planned to work in a company not owned by their family. 17% indicated that they planned to pursue an MBA.
- Only 13% reported that they “Frequently” visited our departmental website. About 40% of the students noted that they “Rarely” or “Never” visited our website.
- 37% reported that they had at least one job interview so far.

I detected no major problems in these exit surveys. Some MIS students expressed a desire to have a better lab to get more “hands on” experience and for classes that would lead to certifications. And, as luck would have it, we are currently working on making both of these suggestions a reality.

Overall, we should be proud of our accomplishments. **Ninety percent of our graduating seniors reported that the quality of instruction in our department was “Good” or “Excellent.”**

Tom G.



## **Chair's Corner**

Our DAC meeting was held on May 5, 2006. Below, I provide you with the highlights of this meeting.

### **Summer School Enrollment**

Our summer school enrollment across the RCOB is down significantly from last year. Overall, we are down about \$25,000 from this time last year. At this point, I do not anticipate any changes to our summer schedule. However, please continue to promote our summer courses to students.

### **RCOB Academic Orientation Sessions For Summer**

Freshman sessions are scheduled for: June 7; June 20; June 26; July 11; July 18; and July 25.

Additional sessions are scheduled for upper-level and lower-level transfer students on: June 2; June 22; July 6; July 13; and, July 21.

If you are teaching summer courses during these dates, you may be asked to occasionally help out with these sessions.

### **Organizational Changes**

A new Director of IT will not be hired in the RCOB. Instead, Diane Williamson will now be the Assistant Dean as well as the Director of IT. Kathryn Brantly will assume the title of Pre-Major Advisor and IT Coordinator. Christy Rabern will be a Pre-Major Advisor and also the Assessment Coordinator. Two new IT professionals will be hired.

### **Student Assistants for 2006/2007**

In our department, we will have two Graduate Research Assistants (graduate students), one Federal Work Study Program student (undergraduate student), and one student assistant (undergraduate student) for the 2006/2007 school year.

Please keep in mind that these students should not handle other students' confidential information (unless it is in a sealed envelope).

## **Change to Vista**

Make certain that you get your courses changed from WebCT to Vista during the summer. Distance Education will be available to help you throughout the summer.

## **Summer Office Schedule**

Our offices will close during the summer at 12:00 noon on Friday. If you need Liz or Tracy's help, please plan accordingly (i.e., do not give them something to copy at 11:55 am on Friday).

If you have any questions or comments about these items, please let me know. The next DAC meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Tom G.



## Saving Our Students Money

The increasing cost of textbooks is a growing concern among students, parents, and instructors. In fact, the cost of textbooks is one of the biggest complaints I see in the student evaluations. Recently, we made a change in the textbook requirements for MGNT 3600. We use to require a textbook that cost students \$113.00. This semester we are using a soft cover text that cost \$42.25 and a workbook that cost \$17.00 (\$59.25 total). This saves each student \$53.75. Given that we have about 350 students who take MGNT 3600 during a given year, this move should result in almost **\$19,000** savings per year.

Additionally changes made to CISM 3330 course will reduce the cost for students about \$45. Given that annual enrollments are around 380 students; this will result in another **\$17,100** savings per year.

If you see opportunities to reduce textbook costs for students, without comprising the quality of instruction in your classes, I encourage you to do so. Also, please let me know about any changes you make and we can try to track the total savings and share this information with our students.

Tom G.

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# WELCOME

## New Addition To Our Faculty

**Liqiong (Joan) Deng** has agreed to join our department this Fall as an Assistant Professor in the MIS area. Joan is completing her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. She completed both an M.A. and B.A. in Economics at Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

Initially, Joan will be teaching a programming class in our department as well as CISM 2201 and CISM 3330. This Fall will be the first time the programming class has been taught in our department and is the result of a lot of planning and hard work by the MIS faculty.

If you would like to send Joan a brief note of welcome, her e-mail address is [jdeng@mays.tamu.edu](mailto:jdeng@mays.tamu.edu).



## **Mentor Program**

In the Fall we have two new faculty members joining our department. And, there is a possibility that we may have two additional faculty members joining us Fall 2007.

I would like to begin a formal mentoring program for new faculty members. I think we already do an excellent job of making individuals feel welcomed in our department. However, sometimes when the semester gets started and we all get busy, we may, unintentionally, not provide the direction needed for new faculty. Given that research has shown that a good orientation program (including a formal mentoring program) can reduce turnover by 40%, I believe that a mentoring program within our department may be worth trying.

We plan to start this program in the Fall. Each new faculty member will be assigned two mentors. One of the mentors will be within the new faculty member's discipline and the other will be someone in the department in a different discipline. This will help the new member better understand and appreciate the diverse nature of our department. The mentors will periodically check with the individual and make certain that questions are answered and that the transition to UWG is going smoothly. Additionally, the mentors can serve as a resource for information and direction throughout the first year.

Doug Turner and Mary-Kathryn Zachary have agreed to serve as a mentor to Joan Deng. Jeff Rooks and I will serve as a mentor to Erich Bergiel.

I welcome your comments about this program. Also, if you are interested in serving as a mentor in the future, please let me know.

Tom G.

# RCOB Big Night

Jon Anderson and Roger Johns coordinated "RCOB Big Night" activities and student David Ogle presented his research. He is a management student set to graduate this summer. Below are pictures of this great event!



Jon Anderson and Roger Johns



David Ogle