MSBAPM NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

MARCH 2014

Master of Science in Business Analytics & Project Management

tangible skills today...
innovative solutions tomorrow.

ABOUT MSBAPM CLUB

IN THIS ISSUE

THIS MONTH

Networking Event

Professor Spotlight

Student Spotlight

Alumni Feature

Questions?
Contact
MSBAPMClub@uconn.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER:

Registration for summer classes opened on 2/24. Please make sure you have taken care of any holds on your account (e.g., immunizations, bursar/financial holds, etc.) - otherwise you will not be able to enroll in a class.

GRADUATION 2014

1. May Graduates - Please apply for graduation through Student Admin.

2. Summer Graduates - Do not apply for graduation until you have finished all your summer classes.

3. All 2014 Graduates (May, Summer, & December) – Please submit your Plan of Study ASAP.

For guidance/Appointments on Courses/Plan of Study
 Email: anna.radziwillowicz@business.uconn.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/6 'INTERVIEWING TIPS' WORKSHOP - Join us in learning how students have been interviewing, what questions they have been getting, what they have learned.
TIME: 4:00pm, Location: check room details posted on door at room 312

3/10 STUDENT SOCIAL - Hang out with your fellow BAPM students!
TIME: 5:00pm & Location TBD.

3/25 VLINK SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY/NETWORKING EVENT - Join us in congratulating those that will receive tuition scholarship awards. Presentation topic after award ceremony: Presentation on Big Data and Data Warehousing Solutions
TIME: 4:30pm, Observation Deck (GBLC).

3/31 BASIC-TO-INTERMEDIATE EXCEL WORKSHOP - Learn relevant skills and knowledge about how Excel fits into the business world. Hosts: Chele Modica and Soham Desai.
TIME: 2:00pm—4:00pm, Room TBD

Solving a Conundrum: The Role of a Data Scientist

By John Wilson

With the emergence of Big Data, along with the tools and techniques to handle the analysis of big data, companies are finding themselves in a bit of a staffing conundrum: whether to hire a data scientist for each business unit or create an entire unit of data scientist that support multiple functional areas. Exacerbating the problem is the significant shortage of employees with the proper skill set to function as a data scientist. In a recent article for The Harvard Business Review (October 2012), Thomas H. Davenport and D.J. Patil called the Data Scientist role the sexiest job of the 21st century. While that moniker may cause prospective employees to seek the appropriate training, there is currently a significant gap between the supply and demand for qualified candidates.

The primary difference between a traditional data analyst and a data scientist is the presence of business acumen in the data scientist role. A data analyst may possess a relatively narrow skill set to perform their duties whereas the data scientist requires a broader understanding of the business objectives along with a more sophisticated ability to process and analyze data. This combination of skills is extremely attractive to today's marketplace.

However, many companies seeking to enter the world of Big Data

analytics are at a loss as how to structure their operations to facilitate their respective needs. The decision essentially comes down to whether or not a functional unit should designate or hire its own data scientist or whether there should be a separate functional unit of data scientists that support multiple other units. To help some of our member companies consider this, we have suggested a hub and spoke type arrangement. We have suggested that functional units retain a data scientist within their staffing, but that companies also begin to structure an autonomous data analytics team that can assist with more advanced analytic functions.

For prospective data scientists, the best advice is to develop a skill set that best combines advanced analytics with various other business skills such as project management, process flow and specific domain knowledge. The ability to both understand and articulate the connection between analytics and business objectives is paramount. To that end, the data scientist will need to be "multi-lingual" in the business sense. That person will need to be fluent in not only analytical terminology, but in the nomenclature of project management, decisions support systems, and general business principles.

As you continue your MSBAPM program, consider not only the skills that you are learning, but how they can inform a tactical or strategic decision. To rise above the competition, be able to articulate what the business objective is and how analytics can help to meet that objective. That ability is what a company values and is what will allow you to be part of the exciting evolution of data analytics.

-JW

Networking Event with GE Capital

By Anna Radziwillowicz & Neeraj Nagendra

The UConn MSBAPM program is committed to providing students with opportunities to hear from UConn alumni that have found successful careers in business.

On February 20th, Daniel Murphy ('06) from GE Capital spoke to a group of students at the Graduate Business Learning Center about his experience with the company and how his UConn education helped prepare him for success at GE as an Information Systems Engineer.

Murphy kicked the event off by discussing the role that the UConn School of Business played in helping him land a position at GE Capital. Additionally, Murphy discussed GE Capital's interest in adapting agile project management methodology for increased efficiency. Murphy engaged the audience by discussing the pros and cons of agile, and even encouraged students to express their thoughts and views on the methodology. A few students asked questions throughout the

presentation and shared their past experiences with various project management and process documentation techniques.

After the presentation, Murphy stuck around to answer questions from students, which allowed him to share further detail about the work he does as an Information Systems Engineer. All the students who attended were in unanimous agreement: the event was a rocking success.

A big thanks to everyone involved with preparing for and managing the event. The next networking event will take place on the evening of March 25th, with VLink, Inc. Please stay tuned for further details.

Benefits of Shared Leadership

By Lauren D'Innocenzo, Ph.D.

LAUREN D'INNOCENZO, PH.D.

PROFESSOR PROFILE:
Dr. D'Innocenzo received her Ph.D in Organizational Behavior from UCONN
School of Business in January, 2014 and has degrees in Psychology (BA,

Cornell University '05) and Sport Management (MS, Ithaca College '07). Her research interests include shared leadership, emergent team phenomena, and cross-level models of team effectiveness.

*W*ant to run a successful project team? Share the lead. In today's knowledge economy, it is unlikely that a single person possesses the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to handle all the requirements of leadership. Furthermore, the evolving needs of projects place premiums on various leadership capabilities such as planning, mission analysis, goal specification, coordination, monitoring resources, and conflict management. Across a number of studies, my colleagues and I set out to test the utility of sharing leadership in project teams. We found that teams who have multiple individuals who provide leadership evidence higher levels of team performance than teams with a single leader. Additionally, we also found that sharing leadership increases individual learning, individual commitment to the team, and facilitates an enthusiasm for being a part of future teams. These findings suggest we should rethink our "great man" perspectives on leadership and, instead, consider how multiple team members can contribute to leadership.

Student Spotlight: Ryan O'Connor

*R*ecently, we found out that a fellow MSBAPM student and UConn

Employee, Ryan O'Connor, was an active runner and participating in several races this year. We were able to catch up with Ryan after his first race of the season.

STUDENT PROFILE:
NAME: Ryan O'Connor
GRAD. DATE: Fall 2014
HOMETOWN: Salem, CT
UNDERGRAD: UCONN, BA in Women's Studies

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE BAPM PROGRAM?
ROC: What brought me to the MSBAPM program was a bit of trial and error with grad school. I tried out a couple courses in other areas of study, and I didn't feel I was the right fit for them. But this program has focused a lot on some of my favorite parts of my job, and I'm hoping it will provide me with new and better opportunities once I graduate.

TELL US ABOUT THE HALF-MARATHON YOU RECENTLY RAN.
ROC: The half marathon I just ran was actually the kick-off for my racing season. It also [was] coincidentally the last race that people use to qualify for the Boston Marathon so it's fairly competitive. It was a beautiful course, I ended up with 50 degree weather and got to run right by the beach in Hyannis and had the support of some great new MSBAPM friends, Tiffany, Yiyao, and Karishma!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE UPCOMING YEAR?
ROC: Become less of a picky eater by trying at least one new food a week, finish the MSBAPM program in a year and a half while working full time, and visit another country for the first time in my life.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS?

ROC: My advice for current MSBAPM students would be to get involved and not take any part of the program for granted. You have 1 or 2 years to learn from your professors as well as the students around you so don't miss out on it. Everything from mock interviews to get-togethers with classmates, these are all resources for learning as well as for building friendships.

END THIS INTERVIEW WITH YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE.

ROC: "All we need is to continue to speak the truth fearlessly" - Lucy Stone

RYAN & MSBAPM SUPPORT
(Left to Right: Yiyao Zhang, Karishma Patel, Ryan O'Connor and Tiffany Moy)

Alumni Feature: Amey Nirpase

STUDENT PROFILE:
NAME: Amey Nirpase
GRAD. DATE: December 2013
HOMETOWN: Pune, Maharashtra, India
UNDERGRAD: Vishwarma Institute of Technolog, Pune, Bachelor of Engineering, Instrumentation and Control

Prior to joining the MSBAPM program in 2013, Amey Nirpase worked for Mu Sigma, an analytics service provider based in Bangalore, India.

Amey credits the MSBAPM program, with its core courses and focus on cutting-edge analytics tools, with skyrocketing his career in a single year.

As a student, Amey worked as a Research Analyst for the Innovative Accelerator program. In this role, Amey had the opportunity to work with both the CEO and COO of entrepreneurial organizations and is proud of having contributed his hard work to business solutions that were appreciated by the program's clients and were written about in various business magazines.

Amey was also a presenter at SAS Day, held at UConn's downtown Greater Business Learning Center, where he shared his perspective on past and present trends in analytics. As BAPM Club Vice President of Alumni Association, he conducted workshops on Excel and SAS for his student colleagues.

Amey appreciates the MSBAPM program for giving him the valuable opportunity to interact with student from various backgrounds: "I grew in leaps and bounds when I had interactions with diverse people, which fostered [our] cross-pollination of thoughts…UConn is a melting pot of cultures across the globe with brilliant minds from diverse educational backgrounds, cultures, and work experiences. There is so much to learn and so much to give."

Attending the MSBAPM program "was one of the best decisions of my life, and I am truly indebted to the astounding faculty and amazing camaraderie which helped me live my dream," Amey said. He noted that this degree has played an especially valuable role in his receiving multiple job offers since graduation.

ABOUT MSBAPM CLUB

UConn MSBAPM Club - An Introduction

We live in a digital age wherein there is rapid diffusion of information across multiple channels, industries, and spheres of life. This has led to the exponential growth of information commonly referred to as Big Data. Today's critical business challenge is translating this information into long-term business value. Individuals who understand the value of analytical thinking will play a key role in influencing the direction and growth of business.

The UConn Master of Science in Business Analytics & Project Management (MSBAPM) is a top-ranked graduate degree program that aims to prepare students for the Big Data challenges of the digital age. The UConn MSBAPM Club was formed in 2011 to enhance the academic and professional environment within the program. The vision and mission statements for the club are presented below.

Vision Statement

To help UConn MSBAPM students meet the changing demands of the highly competitive global workplace by empowering them with the professional skills that will set them up for success in the business world.

Mission Statement

The mission of the UConn MSBAPM program is to help students meet their goals. This will be accomplished by:

1. Providing current students with professional development opportunities to complement their coursework in business analytics and project management.

2. Serving as an advocate for the MSBAPM student body to ensure their voices are heard by the MSBAPM Program Staff and the wider University of Connecticut School of Business.

3. Assisting the MSBAPM Program Staff with career development initiatives and special projects on an as-needed basis.

MSBAPM FACULTY:

Program Director: Dr. Jose Cruz
Department Head: Dr. Ram Gopal
Program Manager: Anna Radziwillowicz

MSBAPM CLUB MEMBERS:

President: Neeraj Nagendra
VP of Alumni: Yiyao (Yolanda) Zhang
VP of Marketing: Soham Desai
Assistant VP of Marketing: Tiffany Moy
VP of Communication: Rohit Bethmangalkar
Assistant VP of Communication: Rini Devnath
VP of Finance: Elliot Hayden
VP of Technology: Ankita Sinha
Assistant VP of Tech.: Srikanth Tirumalaraju