



MSBAPM NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

APRIL 2014

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RESUMES

Please send [Anna](#) your most current resume in the following format: grad date/first & last name/current date in PDF

(ex: May2014_Annaradziwillowicz_Resume_March2014.pdf)

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

4/7 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

4/8 CAREER EVENT -

MSBAPM will hold their first semi-annual career event. We are inviting all students to stop by the Observation Deck to network and talk to companies. Please bring your resumes with you.

Host: MSBAPM

TIME: 5:15pm – 8:00pm, Observation Deck

4/24 RESEARCH DATA REPOSITORIES DATA MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP -

Live streamed over Google Hangout.

Host: UConn Libraries

TIME: 12:00pm—1:00pm, Room TBD

MSBAPM Club Hosts Student Social

By [Neeraj Nagendra](#)

The MSBAPM program held a Student Social on March 10th. This event provided a casual and enjoyable opportunity for all MSBAPM students to socialize with one another, interact with their professors, and to provide the MSBAPM Club officers with feedback and suggestions for future Club activities. An interactive discussion took place between students and Professors Ram Gopal, Jose Cruz and Ramesh Shankarnarayanan regarding suggestions about how to improve the overall student experience, with the ultimate goal of building a sense of community within the program.

As the President of the MSBAPM Club, I encourage all of you to come up with innovative ideas that can be implemented within the MSBAPM program and will benefit all of us. The Club officers are here to help you, so please feel free to reach out to any of us to share your ideas and suggestions about anything!



GET FAMOUS.

Have you recently accomplished a goal or simply done something interesting?
Get it featured in an upcoming BAPM Newsletter!

Email MSBAPMClub@business.uconn.edu
with your name and a short blurb about your story.
Bonus points for photos!

Scholarship Awards and Networking Event with VLink

By [Rohit Bethmangalkar](#) and [Rini Devnath](#)



On March 25th, MSBAPM held a VLink scholarship awards and networking event at the Graduate Business Learning Center that featured speakers Joe Caserta, Vanitha Patil, and Michael Mueller.

The evening began with recognizing VLink- and MSBAPM-sponsored scholarship recipients. 14 scholarships were awarded to well-deserved recipients (listed below).

Joe Caserta, the founder and president of Caserta Concepts, was the event's keynote speaker. Caserta spoke about the importance of following your own career-related passion. He also mentioned various projects his company is engaged in and spoke about the various programming and statistical skills required to enter into the competitive field of analytics. Caserta noted that the ability to think like an analyst is key to success in this area, as this ability differentiates analysts from individuals who simply possess relevant technical skills.

In a short interview held prior to his keynote address, Caserta shared about how he entered into the field of analytics. His analytics career began when an injury prevented him from returning to his former line of work, which eventually led him to pursue a degree in computer science. He later worked in consulting and analytics.

Vanitha Patil, a pro bono attorney for the AILA Military Assistance Program Task Force, hosted a Q&A session geared toward answering international students' questions about the rules and regulations of curricular

practical training (CPT) and optional practical training (OPT). She provided a legal perspective on visa sponsorship and internship programs.

Michael Mueller, Senior Vice President at VLink, concluded the speaking portion of the evening with a presentation on some important interviewing strategies.

Afterward, the speakers graciously stayed to answer student questions and shared additional details about their work and professional interests.

| <i>Sponsor</i> | <i>Scholarship Recipient</i> |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| VLink | Fangfei Guo |
| VLink | Jingjing Wang |
| VLink | Robert Alan Riccio |
| VLink | Thanapol Tanprayoon |
| VLink | Yinghui Ye |
| MSBAPM | Chad Munroe |
| MSBAPM | Dean Elton Anthony Richards |
| MSBAPM | Dmitry Sherman |
| MSBAPM | Naveen Kolagatla |
| MSBAPM | Rohit Bethmangalkar |
| MSBAPM | Suying Song |
| MSBAPM | Xinxuan Wang |
| MSBAPM | Yiyao Zhang |
| MSBAPM | Zhe Zhang |

Student Spotlight: Wei Dai

Studying in the US has been a dream of mine since childhood. During my four years of college in Macau, I became familiar with international cultures, which helped prepare me for going to the USA to get my masters.

STUDENT PROFILE:

NAME: Wei Dai

GRAD. DATE: May 2014

HOMETOWN: Fuzhou, Fujian, China

UNDERGRAD: Macau University of Science and Technology, Finance major



How does the BAPM program fit into your career path?

Like many people my age, I don't have a specific plan for my future career path. But I do realize that following personal passions can lead to a successful career. I feel more comfortable with analytical problems, and have always found communicating and networking to be difficult. Thus, I wanted to follow a path that utilizes my analytical capabilities but also provides me the opportunity to develop my 'people skills'. After nearly two years in the program, I feel that I have been led on the right track of study.

The big data trend makes data analyst positions increasingly promising, which matches my future career expectations and interests. The BAPM program is highly practical and relevant, and the courses help us improve both useful hard skills and valuable soft skills. I appreciate that the program has not only trained me for my future career but has also helped me better understand what I am striving for.

Tell us one accomplishment you're most proud of.

Last summer, I completed a project to design a production planning system for a glass window manufacturer in California. It was the biggest challenge I had ever undertaken.

For starters, my supervisor had very little data knowledge, and the description of the project's

deliverables was so vague that it was almost impossible to understand what the company actually wanted. As a new BAPM student, I was neither experienced in designing database systems nor proficient in data analysis techniques which made the project even more daunting. Additionally, it was a voluntary project, so I had very few resources or personnel support.

To overcome these difficulties, I communicated very frankly with the supervisor. I also did a lot of secondary research to accomplish all the technical problems I faced. I devoted a lot of energy into this project and learned a lot. As a result, my deliverable exceeded the company's expectations. I am not only proud of the final accomplishment, but also of my ability to step outside my comfort zone to execute a difficult task.

If you could grab a meal with anyone in the world, who would it be?

I would like to have a meal with Henry C. Lee, a famous Chinese-born American. As one of the world's foremost forensic scientists, he worked on famous cases such as the JonBenét Ramsey murder and the Helle Crafts woodchipper murder. I would like to know how he became so successful, especially since we have similar backgrounds as Chinese-born individuals working in analytical-related areas. I am inspired by his spirit that makes the impossible possible. I am very impressed by his hard work, detail-mindedness, sense of humor, and team player attitude. I believe that having a meal with him would definitely benefit my future work and life.

What advice would you give to your fellow MSBAPM students?

My advice is mainly for those students who have no work experience:

- Find out what you want to do after graduation.
- Expand your social circle beyond the people who come from the same place as you. Your classmates are your best social capital.
- Get some practical business experience.
- Make full use of the UCONN facilities and services.

Students Celebrate Indian Holiday Holi



Holi is a spring festival which is sometimes referred to as a festival of colors or the festival of love.



Student Spotlight: Eric Johnson

STUDENT PROFILE:

NAME: Eric Johnson

GRAD. DATE: May 2014

HOMETOWN: North Stonington, CT

UNDERGRAD/PAST WORK: Retired after 27 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. Currently working for City Gov't in Hartford



What brought you to the BAPM program, and how have you seen it evolve since joining it?

Interestingly enough, I was originally enrolled full-time in the MBA program. One day, I was driving to a business meeting and saw an UConn advertisement along the highway for the MSBAPM program. I then switched from the MBA program to the MSBAPM program. The program certainly seems to have grown. Additionally, some classes have been fine-tuned and improved since I took them.

What's been your favorite class so far, and why?

Now that's a tough question. Here are my top three:

- Introduction to Project Management
- Risk & Cost Management
- Business Leadership

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love spending time with family. I also really love outdoor activities including skiing, hiking, climbing and kayaking.

What advice would you give to your fellow MSBAPM students?

Enjoy the opportunity to learn. Don't miss any classes! And remember that the only bad question is the one not asked.

Also, get to know your classmates, there are a lot of good people in the MSBAPM program.

Afraid of Commitment?

You can help with the BAPM Newsletter on a [month-to-month basis](#)—no long-term commitment necessary!

Simply attend the kick-off meeting, held on the 2nd of each month, to get involved for the next newsletter.

Join the [MSBAPM LinkedIn Group](#)! Feel free to use this group as a resource to discuss your insights and opinions about the exciting fields of business analytics and project management.

Check it out here – [MSBAPM LinkedIn Group](#)

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 LEADERSHIP:

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](#)