



# The MBA Reporter

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. As we start a new year we are very excited about what 2017 has in store. In previous newsletters we announced the partnership with 2U and the new MBA@Dayton online MBA program. Progress on this front has been very good and we are on track to launch in October of 2017 with our first cohort. I would like to ask everyone for patience and understanding as we transition the program to our new formats. We will offer a fully face-to-face MBA program which will be a "traditional" MBA program. Classes will be taught on weekdays in the evenings so that working professionals can attend classes. The other format will be the completely online MBA@Dayton program. We are phasing out the blended classes (I know we were just phasing them in) this Spring and Summer. Again, I thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we work to make the UD MBA program better.

As we look to the future, some of the initiatives we are working on are as follows:

- To enhance the MBA 798/799 experience. We are working with the leadership of the MGT/MKT department on ways to make the 798 and 799 more seamless and beneficial. We would also like to look for more high profile projects in the 799 class. By making changes to the 798 class, students will be better prepared for complex projects in 799.
- We are working to have internship opportunities for MBA students. We understand that many of our students are working professionals and don't need internships, but we have had a number of companies express interest in having MBA students as interns. This is something we would like to explore.
- We would like to have more opportunities for students to network with one another and with alumni to build professional contacts. The old adage of "it's not what you know but who you know" is partially true. The reason I say partially true is, you need to add "It's what, who you know, knows about you" that makes it fully true. If you get the opportunity to meet with other professionals and they learn more about you and your experience with the UD MBA program, it will help enhance your social capital. Keep an eye out for announcements and invitations to networking events.

There are a number of other tasks we are working on to enhance the UD MBA program such as; we are looking to expand our corporate partnerships for programs like the Lexis Nexis cohort, we are hoping to launch the China Start program this Summer, and we are exploring new electives and course offerings.

Your MBA team is here to help make your experience beneficial and rewarding. 2017 is going to be a busy and exciting year, thank you for choosing UD to continue your education.

Scott E. MacDonald



## Upcoming Events



**January 31**—5:30 PM to 7:30 PM—“Be a Sponge: The Importance of Always Learning” with Professor Vince Lewis in the Atrium of Miriam Hall. The event is complimentary for UD students.

<http://www.daytonchamber.org/index.cfm/?LinkServID=5E49AD54-E354-8889-6711D26D5E87BEDD&eventID=2532>

**April 8**—1st Annual Glennon Symposium with Kenneth Goodpaster, PhD. He will present the topic, “Trends in Business Ethics and Corporate Citizenship,” at an MBA luncheon.

More information on this exciting event will be released in the coming weeks.



**February 27—1:00 PM to 5:00 Pm**  
 SPRING 2017 CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR!!  
 UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ARENA

This event is open to all UD students and alumni interested in looking for internships / co-ops and full-time careers.

## Key Dates

- February 1—Last day for Graduate students to apply for May 2017 graduation.  
**Go here for graduation information:** <https://udayton.edu/fss/graduation/index.php>
- March 2—Spring Break begins after last class
- March 9—Summer and Fall schedules will be made available for students to review
- March 20—Summer registration begins
- March 21—Fall Registration begins
- April 12—Easter Recess begins after last class
- May 13—Summer term MBA 799 meets

## Congratulations Fall 2016 Graduates!!!

On behalf of the School of Business Administration, we would like to congratulate the following 2016 Fall Graduates. We wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors!

Abulaziz Alkatheri

Nicholas Jurgens

Jiansong Sun

Julia Belden

Michael Kribs

Dillon Taylor

Alan Bruggeman

Thomas Morand

Rachelle Thomas

Timothy Ford

John Rooney

Lisa Vondrasek

Seth Harmon

Thomas Sherk

Teng Zhang

Sheryl Ann Jackson

Nicholas Stammen

Wenran Zhao



## 2017 Graduate Student Summer Fellowship Program

The Office for Graduate Academic Affairs (GAA) is now accepting applications for its 2017 Graduate Student Summer Fellowship (GSSF) program. This competitive annual program provides generous financial support to highly qualified graduate students who wish to devote full-time effort to thesis/dissertation research or other creative/scholarly projects during the third (summer) term of the academic year. This year's fellowship awards will include a **\$5350** lump sum payment. A total of 35-40 fellowship awards are anticipated, contingent upon the quality of proposals submitted. Please note that during the fellowship award period, awardees will be prohibited from having any other means of employment, including University of Dayton-issued GA contracts. More information is available on Porches under the Graduate School tab.



MARY GRILLIOT

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### Which courses do you teach for the MBA program?

Currently, I teach MBA 792, Performance Measurement & Control: A Systems Perspective.

### What do you enjoy most about teaching at UD?

A key reason I enjoy teaching at UD, is the exceptional caliber of the Accounting Department Faculty and Staff. Our Chair Donna Street has assembled a balanced team with extremely high levels of intellectual performance, professional experience, commitment to excellence in teaching, and service. The entire department works cohesively to provide the best accounting education possible for our students. The culture within the department tremendously aids my ability to provide top tier instruction for my students.

### What has been one of your major professional or personal accomplishments and why?

I returned to academia after a long and very fulfilling business career. My husband and I built a business from \$750,000 to over \$130,000,000 in annual sales and saw profits increase 12,800% during our tenure. We went from 13 employees to over 600, and were granted hundreds of patents in the same time period. These successes were ONLY possible because we surrounded ourselves with, and developed, truly exceptional people. Being both UD graduates, we applied UD and Marianist values to guide how we treated our suppliers, employees, and customers. As a result, we were repaid with phenomenal reciprocal good will and tremendous levels of performance and support. We firmly believe UD and Marianist values, along with the excellent education we received at UD, were the underlying foundations for our business success. Applying those UD Marianist principles and lessons in our business career, we saw families prosper, better products be developed, employees truly enjoying their work, and all our stakeholders growing as people. The patents, sales and profits just followed, which was UD's gift to us and our stakeholders.

### What advice would you give MBA students?

Undergraduate instruction often must focus on the acquisition of information. In graduate classes, you will often be asked to analyze, synthesize and extend information. In short, you will be asked to stretch and extend your thinking. As a graduate student, you now have more experience to allow that to happen. But seeing new perspectives is not always natural or even comfortable. Open your mind to new concepts, and challenge previously unchallenged assumptions. New knowledge typically starts as vaguely disruptive musings.

Also, try to apply your new learnings to your actual life and work experiences. One of the strengths of UD's MBA program is the rich diversity of experiences that faculty and students bring to the classroom. In my classes, I always try to insure we share those experiences for the learning lessons they allow.

### What book(s) have you read recently?

I just finished *The Symphony of Profound Knowledge* by Edward Martin Baker. This is, I believe, the seminal work on W. Edwards Deming's System of Profound Knowledge management system. Dr. Deming has much to offer on optimal organization design, performance measurement design, motivation, and accounting system design. Just to stretch my basic assumptions, I also recently read *The End of Accounting* by Baruch Lev and Feng Gu. While I disagreed on many points, I did pick up some important concepts that could offer great benefit to accounting and the accounting profession. Finally, I just reread *Willful Blindness* by Margaret Heffernan which explores why we often ignore obvious pieces of knowledge and how that hurts our performance and intellectual development.

### You are stranded on an island, what is one thing you would want with you and why?

Well, the one person I would want with me is my husband Bill. But if I can only have a thing, probably a solar powered, waterproof, laptop so I could read and write.

### Share something fun, quirky, unusual, or unique about yourself that you would like to share with students.

My husband and I founded and own Company 7 BBQ in Englewood OH (close to the Dayton OH airport) with our son and son-in-law. We have been humbled to receive recognition from the National BBQ News as one of the 30 Best of the Best BBQ restaurants in the USA for the last six years in a row. They cook, while I teach!



## MBA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### If you had to give an elevator speech about yourself, what would you say?

Hi, my name is Youssef—a Dayton transplant since January 2013. I moved from Beirut, Lebanon to pursue my MA of public administration, which I completed in 2014, and then chose to enroll in the MBA program instead of a doctoral program. Over the past 4 years, I have been part of the UD human rights center team as a graduate assistant supporting their work through coordinating multiple projects, including key conferences and developing strategic marketing and communications, fostering community relations and building partnerships. I was selected for this portfolio given my experience with the UN agency for development programme in Beirut as a multilingual researcher and tactful project manager implementing 40 projects throughout the country, and working across a range of disciplines and with practitioners from different fields including public, private and nonprofit organizations. During my time in Dayton, I have been coordinating the Malawi Research Practicum, and managed to get my first publication in *Rhetoric and Human Rights Advocacy*, a book by Dr. Rick Ghere – probably not a bestseller but definitely a proud moment of my life. I fell in love with Dayton, it's sense of community and the potential it has.



YOUSSEF FARHET

### What has been your favorite class in the MBA program and why?

I have only taken a handful of classes but I won't hesitate to say that the entrepreneurship course with Professor Vincent Lewis is the highlight so far. The course challenges you to think outside the box and pushes you to pursue ideas you always thought of but never had the opportunity to do. Prof. Lewis brings his expertise as a scholar-practitioner in the field to the course content and works with students as a mentor. By moving to Dayton and adjusting to the community, I experienced brilliant entrepreneurs who are delivering – and it is truly inspiring to learn and be part of that inside the classroom.

### Where do you see yourself five years from now?

The big ticket question. If you had asked this at my high school graduation party in 2008, let me assure you that Dayton, Ohio would not have been on the list, yet here we are. I plan on continuing to grab lifetime opportunities when they present themselves, and channel my experience in public, private and nonprofit partnerships. I believe those of us who manage to get that experience have a duty to continue in that role as we connect the dots and bring a lot of synergy – whether toward the mission of an organization or a community, be it either local or globally positioned.

### Suppose that you have been selected to participate in an international project in South America. All arrangements have been made on your behalf. What are 5 things you would do before you leave?

First, I would pick up the phone and let my mom know that I plan on participating. Second, I will send out a series of emails to those involved in the project to get as much information possible about the nature of the project, travel plans, and a draft calendar of what our time will look like over there. Third, I would get on LinkedIn and social media to see if I know anyone who is/been there; and connect with the other participants who will be joining me. Fourth, vaccinations and maybe a Spanish crash course. The fifth step would be to pin news sources, locate good reads about the area we will be staying in, and follow interesting writers, photographers, bloggers or v-loggers to see what exciting things are ahead of us.

### Would you like to share any other unique characteristics, accomplishments, and/or activities with your fellow UD MBA community?

I lived in Jackson, Mississippi for 2 semesters as an exchange student with the Department of State. Living in the south is a life changing experience, not to mention the amazing food! I am a huge fan of the TV show, *The West Wing*; in fact that's how I heard of Dayton. I watched all seven seasons, seven times, so far. I met President Bartlet (Martin Sheen) during his visit to UD last year. I enjoy photography, biking, wine, good food and friends. I am active on social media, so don't hesitate to connect with me.

**NOMINATE A  
FELLOW MBA  
STUDENT!**

Has a fellow student impressed you either academically, professionally, with his/her community involvement, or in some other way? If so, nominate your student colleague for an upcoming Student Spotlight.

To nominate a student, please complete the form at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/s3td2g9Buh>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: How do I register for classes?

**A:** On first day of registration, **fully admitted students** should register online via Porches. **Conditionally accepted students** must call the MBA office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### Q: Can I register by e-mail?

**A:** No e-mail registrations will be accepted. You can register either online (if eligible) or by calling the MBA office on registration day.

### Q: What information do I need to register by phone?

**A:** To register by phone, please have the following information ready before calling the MBA office:

- ◆ Full Name (spelling your last name)
- ◆ Student I.D. number
- ◆ Desired courses with section numbers
- ◆ Call-back number

### Q: How do I order textbooks?

**A:** You may visit the UD bookstore website at: <https://www.udayton.edu/bookstore/>

### Q: What is the last day to drop a full-term class?

**A:** You may withdraw from class **without record on the last business day before the third scheduled class** session or you may **withdraw with record of "W" on the last business day before the sixth scheduled class** session. For half-term drop/add policies, follow link below:

[https://www.udayton.edu/business/academics/graduate/master\\_of\\_business\\_administration/student\\_resources1/policies.php](https://www.udayton.edu/business/academics/graduate/master_of_business_administration/student_resources1/policies.php)

### Q: Do I have to apply to graduate even if I don't plan to attend the ceremony?

**A:** Yes. All students who plan to graduate are required to apply for graduation, regardless of whether they intend to be present at the ceremony. If you do not apply for graduation, a diploma will not be generated.

## Grade Appeals – MBA Policy

**Time limit for Appeal** - Grade appeals submitted by students in the School of Business Administration will be objectively and promptly reviewed. A grade appeal may be initiated, provided that it is done within 14 calendar days following the end of the academic term in which the grade was assigned and provided further that one of the following three criteria is met:

1. That the grade received appears to be inconsistent with the performance of the work required and recorded for that course;
2. The grade received is inconsistent with what has been recorded for the course;
3. The grade received was explicitly determined by criteria other than the stated criteria system for that course.



**Procedures for Appeal** - If a student wishes to appeal a grade and can provide evidence that one of the criteria above has been violated, the following appeals procedure is to be followed:

1. The first appeal is made directly to the course instructor awarding the contested grade. No appeal will be further considered if this first step is not followed. If this appeal is unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then register a second appeal.
2. The second appeal is to be submitted in writing by the student to both the Department Chairperson and MBA Director with fully supporting facts and documentation for review. The appeal to both the Department Chairperson and the MBA Director must be filed within 14 calendar days immediately following the conclusion of the first appeal.
3. A third and final appeal may be made to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, School of Business Administration, by either the student or the course instructor. This final appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days immediately following the conclusion of the second appeal. The Associate Dean will appoint and chair a Grade Appeal Review Committee to gather the facts and make a recommendation. The Committee will make a decision based on the evidence presented. The student, course instructor, Department Chair, and MBA Director will be advised of the Committee's findings.

**Change of Grade** - If a grade change is warranted, either the Department Chair, MBA Director, or the Associate Dean will execute a change of grade form.

## SBA MISSION

The School of Business Administration is a learning community committed in the Catholic and Marianist tradition to educating the whole person and to connecting learning and scholarship with leadership and service in an innovative business curriculum designed to prepare ethical leaders for successful careers in a global business environment.

**RECOGNIZED. RELEVANT. REWARDING.**

## MEET THE MBA STAFF



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## WANT TO SUGGEST A SPECIAL TOPIC?

We strive to provide you with current relevant topics and information. We want to write articles about what interests you! If you would like to suggest a special topic for our next newsletter, email Senay Semere at, [semeres1@udayton.edu](mailto:semeres1@udayton.edu)



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