

QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS

RAJ SOIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

3640 COLONEL GLENN HIGHWAY • DAYTON, OHIO • 110 RIKE HALL • EMAIL: [RSCOB-ADMIN@WRIGHT.EDU](mailto:rscob-admin@wright.edu) • PHONE: 937.775.2437

WEBSITE: <http://www.wright.edu/business>



Message from the Dean

by Dean Berkwood Farmer

Welcome back! We hope you had a happy and safe winter break and are now back in the midst of your classes.

We have several new programs beginning this quarter. Our China MBA students have arrived and have begun their MBA classes. They are eager to learn about American culture and we hope you will meet them and welcome them to the college. We have also launched a new program in conjunction with The Ohio State University's CIBER center. TARGET (To Aim and Realize Global Expansion Together) is designed to help and encourage small and mid-sized businesses to expand their presence in the global marketplace. The program will provide internships for our students and invaluable assistance to area businesses.

Our first Town Hall Meeting was an informative session and we appreciate everyone who attended. Your ideas and suggestions are very welcome. Our second Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 12 at 4:30 p.m. in 401 Millett Hall. Your input will help us create a better learning environment within the college and we hope you will attend and participate.

If you want to connect with energetic students who wish to orchestrate change within the Raj Soin College of Business, I hope you will consider becoming a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Board. Applications for the 2004-2005 academic year are now available in the Dean's Office. We hope you will consider participating and becoming an advocate for continuous improvement within the college.

Have a happy and productive quarter and, as you trudge through the cold and snow on your way to class, keep in mind that spring break is on its way!

RAJ SOIN
College of Business
WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY



Raj Soin College of Business Vision – Mission – Values

VISION

To be the best college of business in Ohio

MISSION

To prepare students to be successful and ethical leaders capable of making valued contributions within the global marketplace; to advance knowledge through research; and to provide professional, entrepreneurial, and economic development assistance to individuals, businesses, organizations, and governments in the Greater Miami Valley and the State of Ohio.

VALUES

- Faculty and staff involvement with student achievement and advancement
- Communication skills, analytical skills, information technology, and ethical-decision making as intrinsic parts of the learning process
- Commitment to the liberal arts for a sound education
- Lifelong learning for faculty, staff, students, and alumni
- A quality learning environment
- Global perspective
- Teamwork and respect for each other
- Commitment to innovation
- Commitment to diversity
- Continuous improvement in all we do

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

RSCOB QUARTERLY TOWN MEETING!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2004
072 RIKE HALL

4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Refreshments will be served

PLEASE JOIN US!

Chair's Corner

by James Swaney, Economics

Which FOUR living U.S. Presidents have degrees in economics? (Answer below.)

I'd like your input on the transition to 4-credit courses. I know this transition has been tough, especially in classes that meet once a week. As difficult as it is for students to remain alert and keep their gray matter in "sponge mode," think of what it's like for us "seasoned" professors who have been teaching 150 minute night classes for the past 10, 20 or even 30 years! Adding another fifty minutes to what were already marathon sessions is hard on us, too.

In response to concerns expressed by members of the Dean's Student Advisory Board, a group of students, faculty, and administrators met last November to discuss student concerns and related transition issues. The two biggest concerns of undergraduate students are that night classes are too long, especially if there is only one short break, and that many (four credit) courses seem to be trying to pack 15 weeks of work into 10 weeks. Faculty have been asked to reassess their new four-credit courses, keeping in mind that a four credit course is a third more than a three-credit course. We also are interested in gauging interest in Friday late afternoon or Saturday morning classes.

You may have already participated in an email poll on these issues, but whether you have or not, we are interested in hearing your opinions and suggestions.

Contact me at james.swaney@wright.edu about this or any other academic or related topic. And keep in mind that undergraduate training in economics is excellent preparation for professional schools, especially in law or business, as well as for employment in many different types of jobs in the public as well as the private sector. The four Presidents with Econ degrees? Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush, and Jeb Bartlett (who plays President on the TV show *West Wing* – the question did not specify *real* Presidents!)



International Business Club members in Cincinnati

Club News

The Human Resources club is looking forward to a great 2004! We are beginning the quarter with a strong start. Our new officers are:

President: Megan Leasher
 Vice President / Merit Award Chair: Kellie Gilroy
 Treasurer: Laura Little
 Marketing Chair: Heather Braun
 Secretary: Christie Spreng
 Faculty Advisor: Lisa Crawford

This quarter, we are holding five meetings with HR guest speakers, preparing to send a team to the HR Games competition at Capital University in February, preparing our submission to the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Merit Award Competition, and becoming more integrated with the Miami Valley Human Resource Association, the Dayton area professional SHRM chapter.

If you would like to learn more about the Human Resources Club, or be informed of our club's events and activities, sign up for our email list! If you would like to be on our list, please email our Secretary, Christie Spreng at spreng.3@wright.edu. Also, if you know an HR professional who would be interested in being a guest speaker for an HR Club meeting, please contact leasher.2@wright.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Be sure to check us out on the web at <http://www.wright.edu/studentorgs/hrmngmnt/>

The International Business Club mission is to serve as a link between IB students and the IB environment of the Miami Valley and the world. With new officers, presided by Manuel A. Torrealba, and a new advisor Ms. Monica Snow, the IBC has become a more active and dynamic club. Our main goal is to encourage students to experience the unique opportunities awaiting WSU undergraduates and graduates. Also, by having featured guests, we hope to promote WSU students to regional businesses and develop alliances with these businesses for future networking.

This year, the IBC has had many guest sponsors. We have hosted a welcome reception for foreign exchange students from Europe, Asia and South America, and made our first field trip of the year to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Export Assistance Center in Cincinnati and the Cincinnati International Visitors Bureau. These events and tours have proven to be a great opportunity to test the waters of networking with regional businesses.

There are many more activities planned for the club through the remainder of the year. Feel free to visit our website at www.wright.edu/studentorgs/ibc to find our next meeting. Our staff is always pleased to welcome new members, and can be reached at rscoib-club@wright.edu

Student Government

by Ryan Newman

I would like to welcome everyone back from winter break and trust that everybody had a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

My primary objective this quarter as Student Government Senator is to put an emphasis on working directly with the students. I am looking for input from fellow students from the Raj Soin College of Business on items you would like for me to address. Any questions or feedback regarding issues relating to the College of Business are welcomed. Let me know your concerns and I will try to help.

I can be contacted at Student Government at 775-5508 or by email: wsrcob@yahoo.com. My office hours will be posted at <http://www.wright.edu/sg/members/newman.html>.

Good luck to all of you this quarter, and I am eager to hear from you.

Shandong MBA Program Launched

by Andrew Lai, Ph.D.

Please extend a warm “Raj Soin College of Business welcome” to our new China MBA program participants. Thirty business executives and governmental officials from Shandong Province of China have begun the College’s first-ever China cohort MBA program this Quarter. Students will take a 12-month intensive program to earn an MBA executive formatted degree.

Shandong Province ranks second in terms of population and gross domestic production in China. All 30 students went through a very competitive selection process and were selected from a pool of over 700 young executives by the provincial government. They then completed a three-month intensive English study program at the Shandong Normal University before they were admitted by the Raj Soin College and the Graduate School at Wright State. At the opening ceremony on January 5, 2004, this cohort class of MBA students was welcomed by University Provost David Hopkins, Dean Farmer, and local business executives.

The cohort of MBA students represents diverse fields in government and business including banking, securities, economic development, insurance, engineering, tourism, fishing, mining and manufacturing. Several of these students hold graduate degrees in engineering and one holds a doctoral degree in chemical engineering. They are here to learn and to share the U.S. and Chinese cultures and business practices to strengthen economic ties and maintain mutually beneficial trade relations. If you would like to have more information or interact with this cohort group, please contact the student president, Kui Jiang at jiang.3@wright.edu or Program Coordinator, Andrew Lai, Ph.D. at 775-2895 or andrew.lai@wright.edu.



Why This Place Is Special

by Marlena Akhbari, Assistant Professor of Finance & Outstanding Teaching Award Winner

I have been fortunate to be in a position to observe how special this place is from several perspectives. First as a student in the MBA program during the early 1990s, I felt that I was being challenged by some of the areas finest professors. More importantly, I felt in all instances that I was valued by my professors. When I entered the Ph.D. program at the University of Cincinnati, I found that my opinions were not unfounded. I was as prepared for the rigors of a doctoral program as anyone around me and better prepared than many.

Now as a tenure track assistant professor in the Raj Soin College of Business, I have a fresh perspective on what makes this place special. It is special both because of my students and because of my colleagues.

Though I have had the opportunity to teach at several different institutions while I completed my doctorate, I was quite anxious to return to the Raj Soin College of Business. This is because the students here have always made me feel like an important part of their team. Wright State students juggle so much, between off-campus jobs, families, and carrying full course loads, and yet they make every attempt to get it all finished with very little complaining. They are respectful of any and all efforts made by faculty on their behalf. Their excuses are minimal and their efforts strong. What more can an instructor ask?

A last factor that makes this place special is the mutual respect among the faculty. I often joke about being “low man on the totem pole,” but nothing could be farther from the truth. At WSU there is nearly a total absence of “pecking order.” I was made to feel like an important and integral part of the department as a graduate teaching assistant, then again as an instructor and now as an assistant professor. The lack of “pecking order” was made even clearer to me this past year when a colleague of mine came up with a wonderful idea for a student debt counseling service that would be delivered by Raj Soin College of Business students to the entire WSU student body. At many institutions it would have fallen by the

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Why This Place Is Special

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wayside simply because the person making the suggestion was so “junior.” Not so at Wright State! He received full support.

The bottom line is that it is both an honor and a pleasure to be part of this team!

Meet the Dean’s Student Advisory Board

by Mindy Wallace

The Raj Sooin College of Business Dean’s Student Advisory Board is an organization that was started by our own Dean Berkwood Farmer three years ago when he came to WSU. Dr. Farmer, being a very student-oriented Dean, felt getting students’ opinions was and still is an essential part for the success of the Raj Sooin College of Business. The Dean’s Student Advisory Board meets bi-weekly with Dr. Farmer and serves as a communication link between the student body and the administration. During those sessions, we hope to provide an open forum for innovations and changes within the Raj Sooin College of Business.

This fall quarter, we held our first Town Hall Meeting, a forum where all students received an opportunity to come voice their opinions about the college. During our recent Town Hall Meeting the conflicts pertaining to the switch to four-credit hours were brought to the attention of the faculty. We hope to continue these Town Hall Meetings during upcoming quarters to get more student input into creating the best business school in Ohio.



Other activities of the Dean’ Student Advisory Board are to act as ambassadors for the college. Board members participate in community service projects to help area charities and bring visibility to the Raj Sooin College of Business. In addition, we attend prospective student visitation days to assist in attracting students to the college. We also organize the Student Alumni Connections Luncheon each spring to help foster networking relationships between students and WSU alumni.

If you have any questions or concerns to bring to the board, please feel free to contact us at rscob-dsab@wright.edu.

FYI – SPRING 2004 REGISTRATION AND ADVISING

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| February 9 | Registration Begins – Check ROX for registration scheduling and class offerings |
| March 1 | Deadline for applying for June 2004 graduation |

Advising appointments may be schedule by stopping by 110 Rike Hall or calling 775-2437. If you have any questions or problems, please stop in and talk to one of our advisors.

Study Abroad Opportunity

by Monica Snow

Money Available for Study Aboard – Don’t Miss the Deadline March 5!

Here’s your chance to earn credits toward your degree, sharpen your language skills and complete a practical business internship – all at your standard Wright State tuition rate, plus up to \$3,500 in travel and living expenses. Study at partner universities in Umea, Sweden, Jena, Germany or Salamanca, Spain.

You must have junior standing, a minimum of two years of university level foreign language study and a 3.0 GPA. The application form is simple and easy to complete. If you want Monica Snow to review your application before sending it to the University Center for International Education, please forward to monica.snow@wright.edu. To learn more about this exciting opportunity and see photos of our partner universities visit http://www.wright.edu/ucie/reneuss_program.html.

This Winter Quarter students from Liberal Arts were awarded all the available scholarships. Let’s be sure that the Raj Sooin College of Business students win the next round!

ANNOUNCING!

Recruiting and Networking Event
for all Graduate Students

in the Raj Sooin College of Business

Thursday, April 8, 2004

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

156 Student Union