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Graduate School of Business and Public Policy (GSBPP)

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Newsletter May 2004

Dean's Corner

Earlier this year, the BPP faculty adopted a policy for classroom visits. Conditions and procedures were established for visiting classes for purposes of observation, teaching assistance and evaluation. Elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter, Leslie Sekerka discusses her teaching effectiveness project, including what she learned about our teaching techniques from her visits to colleagues' classes. I have been visiting classes over the past two quarters, as well. My visits have helped me to be better informed about instruction in our School. I've learned a lot – including how to calculate the time value of money, analyze marginal costs, and negotiate contracts. Each class that I visited has been different and so have the pedagogical approaches employed by the faculty. Generalization about them is difficult, but I would say that there have been three themes that I've observed.



The first is the rigor of our courses. The course syllabi, reading lists, problem sets, and class discussions are demanding. Our students tell us this, of course, but it helps to see it first hand.

Second, the faculty works very hard at teaching. I've observed faculty members expending enormous effort to enliven their classes, keep their courses current, make sure the material is relevant, coach and mentor their students, and assure learning is being accomplished.

Third, the students are active participants in the classroom. They're prepared to discuss cases, they get very involved in group problems, simulations and role playing exercises. They engage their instructors and each other in meaningful classroom discussions.

I have observed that the faculty of BPP care about a lot of things ... but they *really* care about their teaching. It shows in the faculty meetings where what and how we teach are being discussed; it shows in extra efforts like the instructor-led teaching effectiveness forum; and it shows in the classroom. I encourage colleagues to visit each other's classes. It will make you feel even better about what we do here in BPP.

CONRAD Chair Activity

In late April the following students were selected as Potential Conrad Scholars by the Office of the ASN(FM&C): **Lt Joshua Bigham**, 1120, USN; **Lt Thomas Goudreau**, 1110, USN; **Lcdr Kory Fierstine**, 1310, USN; and **Capt Joseph Reppert**,



USMC. Bigham and Goudreau had their Thesis Proposal approved; Fierstine and Reppert are still processing their Proposals.



December 2004 Conrad prospective Graduates, **Cdr Dave Cutter**, 1320, USN and **Lt Jed Espiritu**, 1120 are in the final stages of preparing for briefing their theses to the Director, Office of the Budget of the Navy in the Pentagon in June.

Publications

Ira Lewis and **Alexander Talalayevsky**,

"Improving the Interorganizational Supply Chain through Optimization of Information Flows,"

Journal of Enterprise Information Management , 17(3), 2004, 229-237.

John J. Bartholdi and **Kevin R. Gue**,

The Best Shape for a Crossdock, *Transportation Science* 38:2, 2004.



Presentations

Ann Jacobson presented "Teaching Faculty to Incorporate Library Resources and Services into Their Blackboard Course Sites" at the LOEX Library Instruction Conference in Ypsilanti , Michigan on May 8.

Professional Activities

Susan Sanchez was one of 5 NPS faculty and 4 NPS students to attend the 8th Project Albert International Workshop in Singapore on April 18-23. Professors Sanchez and Lucas gave a plenary session on "Experimental designs and analysis in the data-farming environment" at the workshop.

Faculty Comings and Goings

Dr. Deborah Gibbons has joined our faculty as Assistant Professor of Management. Deborah received her Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University in Organizational Behavior and Theory, with a Minor in Statistics. Prior to coming to BPP, she taught at Georgia State University . Her interests include roles of social relations and networks in organizational learning, collaboration and power dynamics; strategic interorganizational networks; diffusion of innovations; and concurrent effects of personality and social context on individual cognition and behavior.

Librarian's Corner

Are you interested in learning how to create direct links in your Blackboard or other course sites to full-text articles in **ProQuest** or **JSTOR**? If so, I invite you to make an appointment with me and I'll show you how.

Thanks to those of you who have submitted book purchase suggestions to me. If you've been meaning to do it but haven't gotten around to it yet, there's still time. Just fill out the form at

<http://library.nps.navy.mil/home/purchase/GSBPP.htm>.

Ann Jacobson

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