FROM THE DEAN . . .

This edition of the Barney Update focuses on our MBA (Master of Business Administration) and MSAT (Master of Science in Accounting and Taxation) graduate programs.

One measure of our programs’ value can be found in our alumni, who are leading organizations, large and small, here in Greater Hartford, throughout the Northeast, and in London, Paris, and other global markets.

They hold executive and managerial positions at insurance and financial sector companies like Aetna, Bank of America, Cigna, FM Global, Goldman Sachs, The Hartford, Macquarie, MassMutual, Prudential, Travelers, and xL; at accounting firms such as Blum Shapiro, CohnReznick, Deloitte & Touche, Ernst & Young, Grant Thornton, KPMG, and PwC; at health care organizations like ConnectiCare, Hartford Healthcare, Saint Francis, Tenet Healthcare and UnitedHealth Group; at manufacturing companies such as Boston Scientific, Kaman Aerospace, Nissan, Otis, Pratt & Whitney, Stanley Black & Decker, and United Technologies; and in hundreds of small and medium-size businesses.

Why did they enroll in a Barney School master of accounting, business, or public administration program? First, our faculty members are knowledge experts committed to student learning. Second, we are connected to the business community, bringing industry, government, and community leaders to campus as guest speakers, panelists, and instructors. Third, our programs put students in contact with alumni, corporations, and professional associations for mentoring and networking, and fourth, we provide individual advising and easy access to faculty and staff. Share your news with us, and let us know how you would like to be engaged with our graduate students.

Best regards,

Martin S. Roth
Dean and Professor of Management and Marketing
mroth@hartford.edu
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Peter DuBois MBA ’01  
Chief Information Officer  
Stanley Black & Decker

Responsible for managing a global department of more than 300 fulltime employees and 100 to 150 contractor resources, Peter DuBois manages all aspects of information technology across the Construction and Do It Yourself (CDIY) Division, with revenues of more than $5.2 billion.

“My MBA has been integral to my career progression. It has afforded me a strong foundation in business through practical, real-world examples. Furthermore, it provided me with key executive skills that have been vital to my managerial development, specifically, public speaking and how to lead cross-functional teams.”

Lisa Varni BA ’03, MSAT ’04  
Senior Manager, Assurance and Business Advisory Services  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Lisa Varni has more than 10 years of experience at PwC, providing audit services to clients in the manufacturing, construction, biotech, health care, and higher education industries. She is also an instructor in the firm’s continuing education programs, a contributor to thought leadership pieces, and a presenter at client education sessions.

“The MSAT program allowed me to condense my coursework in less than one year, then quickly focus on passing the CPA exam. The foundations I learned have helped me guide my clients through complex accounting topics and, more importantly, develop research skills for navigating ever-changing regulations.”

Amit Kumar MBA ’00  
Vice President/Senior Analyst—Insurance  
Macquarie Capital

Amit Kumar focuses on large-cap, multi-line insurers, mid-cap insurers, and Bermudian reinsurers. Previously, he served as vice president at Fox-Pitt Kelton, a leading specialist investment bank that was acquired by Macquarie Securities Group. He began his career as an equity research associate at Dowling & Partners Securities, LLC.

“My MBA experience helped me bridge the gap from concepts to application on Wall Street. The credentialed background of our faculty and a diverse student base further honed my leadership skills.”

BARNEY MBAs WRITE THE BOOK ON YOUTH CONFERENCE PLANNING

During spring break, Barney School of Business students visited Bermuda to learn about the island’s insurance, reinsurance, and risk management industry.

Students also coached and mentored Bermudian high school students as part of the 11th annual Bermuda Youth Conference, adding community service learning to the course. The high school students delivered presentations and business plans to local executives and political leaders on how to attract more business and leisure travelers to their country. As part of their service requirement, Barney students prepared and presented a report to the conference planners that included recommendations for improvement.

Three MBA students felt so strongly about one of their recommendations that they took on the task themselves. They recommended that there should be “a conference handbook to ease planning throughout the year, ensure resources are secured, and minimize conflicts.” The handbook will assist with succession planning in Bermuda and help take the youth conference concept global.

Going above and beyond their course requirement is just another example of students practicing our mission to be globally aware and socially responsible leaders and decision-makers. «

From left: Three MBA students—Chris Rojek, Vanessa Paradis and Kaitlin Voglesong
GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

We are continually developing new courses, concentrations, degree options, and delivery modes to help students attain their learning goals and enable businesses to meet their most pressing needs. Here are a few of the recent graduate program innovations.

Flexible Delivery
Students can now earn a Barney School MBA or MSAT degree exclusively online, fully on campus, or by mixing courses taken online and others in the classroom. This model simplifies the student’s ability to earn a degree at her or his own pace and place. Whether completing courses on campus or online, students are taught by the same professors and have opportunities to expand their business networks. We host welcome sessions each semester so that new students can meet with the dean, faculty, staff, and other students. And our Barney Graduate Advisory Council keeps everyone connected by organizing alumni networking and professional development events.

Concentrations
Graduate elective courses can now be structured into concentrations. Specialized concentrations are available in business analytics, finance, and management. Additional concentrations under development include project management, risk management, and supply chain management. External certifications are also being incorporated where applicable, such as SAS certification in the business analytics concentration.

Dual Degrees
The Excellence in Engineering and Management, E2M program, enables graduate students to earn both a Master of Engineering degree and an MBA, taking six fewer courses compared to pursuing both degrees separately. E2M is a partnership between the University of Hartford’s Barney School of Business and College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture and is the first dual-degree program in Connecticut in engineering and management.

For students who wish to earn both the Master of Science in Accounting and Taxation and the MBA degrees, we now offer them together as a dual-degree option. Pursuing both degrees meets the needs of managers who want to strengthen both their business and leadership, and accounting and financial skills. Depending on their prior academic and professional backgrounds, students can complete the dual degree with as few as 18 courses.

Kate Sims has more than 33 years of health-care experience, including previous positions as vice president of operations at Eastern Connecticut Health Network, with responsibility for day-to-day operations, financial management, and short- and long-term capital planning.

“My MBA allowed me personal and professional growth and the ability to expand in areas of responsibility. More importantly, the increased level of confidence in combination with my enhanced knowledge has provided me a successful pathway for continual growth and opportunity.”

Kathleen Sims MBA ’08
Vice President of Operations
Medical Risk Management, LLC

REFER A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE—THEY SAVE, YOU GAIN

Has a friend, colleague, or family member expressed interest in earning their MBA or MSAT? Refer them to Barney and let them know that their application fee will be waived. And if they enroll in the program, we’ll send you a $100 gift card to the University Store, Amazon, iTunes, or Starbucks. Simply have them enter the code “2014AL” on their application under “additional Information” in response to the question, “How did you hear about the University of Hartford?” Contact Mia Hawlk, manager of Graduate Student Services, at Hawlk@Hartford.edu or 860.768.4444 for more information.

MBA MY WAY
BARNEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
MBA PROGRAM
CAREER-FOCUSED BUSINESS EDUCATION
SAVE THE DATE

PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION AND GRADUATE NETWORKING EVENT
The Hartford Club
Sept. 16, 2014
6:30 p.m.

INTERSECTION OF RISK AND FINANCE SYMPOSIUM
Millard Auditorium
Oct. 29, 2014
5–7 p.m.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS OPEN HOUSE
Hillyer Hall, Shaw Center
Nov. 17, 2014
4:30–6:30

BARNEY ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS
Harry Jack Gray Center
Jan. 28, 2015
5:30–7:30 p.m.

BARNEY UPDATE
GRADUATE PROGRAM EDITION FALL 2014

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI PROVIDE FREE CONSULTING SERVICES
Eager to apply what they learn and be a community resource, the Barney Graduate Consulting Services (BGCS) is a consulting group of graduate students and alumni who assist Hartford-area small businesses with free analysis and advisory services.

The BGCS works on two pro-bono projects a semester—typically for a small, commercial enterprise and a community organization. Sample clients include a wheelchair youth basketball camp, a professional photographer, an agricultural start-up, doggie daycare, a soup company start-up, a restaurant, and the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce. Chamber officials said they were “extremely impressed with the professionalism, business savvy, and expertise demonstrated” by the group, and awarded the group its 2013 Volunteer of the Year award.

Are you managing a business or nonprofit in the Hartford region with less than 10 employees and less than $2 million in sales? If you are interested in consulting services, please contact the BGCS at bgcs@hartford.edu.