



# LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Volume 16, Issue 2

Spring 2006

## **MSA Associate Director's Notes** *By Paul Olsen, Ed.D.*



People often ask me to differentiate between the Master of Science in Administration (MSA) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) or Master of Public Administration (MPA) degrees. What follows is a brief history of the MSA and an overview of the differences between the degrees.

Saint Michael's College established the MSA in 1979, basing it on a program offered at the University of Notre Dame. Emphasizing administration as "both an art and a science," the MSA is designed primarily for part-time study and,

unlike many MBA and MPA programs, requires work experience as a condition of admission.

The philosophy behind the MSA is that managers and administrators require core competencies regardless of where they work. While MBA and MPA degrees focus primarily on the private or public sectors respectively, the MSA prepares students to lead, manage change, make ethical decisions, and communicate effectively in the private, nonprofit, and public sectors.

Another difference is the MSA is less quantitative than traditional MBA programs. While we do require students to develop

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*A NEWSLETTER FOR SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE  
GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT*

## MSA ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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quantitative skills through accounting, finance, and statistics courses, the MSA does not mandate multiple prerequisite math courses as a condition of admission. As previously mentioned, we emphasize the skills needed to effectively lead and manage today's complex organizations.

The practitioner-oriented nature of the MSA also sets it apart from traditional MBA and MPA degree programs. Since its inception, working professionals have benefited from immediate application of what they are learning in their MSA courses in worksites throughout Vermont and beyond. In fact, since the establishment of the program, more than 650 students have graduated with a Saint Michael's MSA degree.

Lastly, our portfolio requirement differentiates the MSA in the higher

education marketplace. In our capstone Leadership Seminar courses, MSA students prepare a portfolio documenting accomplishment of personal learning and program goals. Similar to teacher education and art portfolios documenting learning and professional development, our portfolio requirement, unique in management education, was first introduced in the MSA more than 10 years ago.

As a graduate of the program and Associate Director, I am proud of the unique nature of the MSA and will continue to build on its strengths in the future.

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Dr. Robert Letovsky and I want feedback on your experience with the MSA at Saint Michael's College. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments or suggestions.

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**SAINT MICHAEL'S BOOKSTORE**

**www.smcvt.edu/bookstore**  
**654.2517**

**To purchase books, you can call and order with a credit card and then pick up your books or have them mailed to you. You can also use our online inquiry form at [www.smcvt.edu/graduate](http://www.smcvt.edu/graduate) under "Student Services."**

## SIGMA BETA DELTA



### Sigma Beta Delta

is the International Honor Society for Business, Management and Administration. To be inducted into

SBD, a student must rank in the top 20 percent of their class and have completed approximately three-quarters of the program.

**Induction Ceremony**  
**Hoehl Welcome Center**  
**Saturday, April 1, 3:00 p.m.**

### 2006 Inductees

Alice Ayres  
Lesa Cathcart  
Alice Goodridge-Shramm  
Joanne Heidkamp  
Judith Higgins  
Cynthia Kelley  
Albert Russell, Jr.  
Elizabeth Sachel

## SUGGESTED BOOKS The Financial Times/Goldman Sachs 2005 Book of the Year Award

- **The World is Flat:** A Brief History of the Globalized World in the 21st Century by Thomas Friedman (Winner)
- **Disneywar:** The Battle for the Magic Kingdom by James B. Stewart
- **The Search:** How Google and Its Rivals Rewrote the Rules of Business and Transformed Our Culture by John Battelle
- **Freakonomics:** A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
- **Fast Second:** How Smart Companies Bypass Radical Innovation to Enter and Dominate New Markets by Constantinos C. Markides and Paul A. Geroski
- **The Travels of a T-shirt in the Global Economy:** An Economist Examines the Markets, Power and Politics of World Trade by Pietra Rivoli



### John Molson MBA International Case Competition Team 2006:

From left to right: Al Russell, Robert Letovksy (coach), Peter Zuk, Bill Anderson (coach), Patty Richards, and Alice Goodridge-Shramm.

**Norman E. Walker, CPA***Associate Professor*

Professor Walker started his teaching career with evening courses at Rutgers University in New Brunswick and Newark, New Jersey. "Evening students were highly motivated, especially in Newark where going to school at night in center city was a dangerous thing to do," Norm said. "This really illustrated the perceived value of further education."

This part-time experience led to a new full-time career at Saint Michael's College in 1984. "I came to Saint Michael's because my experiences in teaching were very gratifying and Vermont is a beautiful state and a great place to raise a family."

Norm started his career as an auditor with one of the largest big-eight accounting firms and had a variety of clients ranging from a defense contractor that produced the Space Shuttle rocket engine to non-profit faith based organizations. "I love accounting and had a very good accounting education. My undergraduate and graduate concentrations were both in accounting," said Norm. He finds it a fun subject to teach and tries to create a relaxed atmosphere in the

classroom. "Our MSA students often seem surprised that accounting turns out to be an enjoyable subject to learn."

Professor Walker also initiated an Ethical Issues in Business course in the early 90s with the support of Professor Edward Mahoney who continues to teach that class in the MSA program. "I think it is essential that students understand that despite the news about extraordinary ethical violations, most organizations practice highly ethical conduct and expect that from its employees," he said.

A frequent community contributor, Norm is currently Treasurer of the Institute for Spiritual Development, a Sisters of Mercy ministry. He has also served as a United Way volunteer and Treasurer of the Committee on Temporary Shelter in Burlington.

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**Read previous MSA faculty profiles online at:**

**[www.smcvt.edu/graduate/msa/newsletter.asp](http://www.smcvt.edu/graduate/msa/newsletter.asp)**



**J**oanne LaBrake conducted several Leadership Training seminars on the DISC Behavioral Style Profile for Pizzagalli Construction.

**R**obert Letovsky, MSA Program Director, will have his case study, *Catamount Energy and the Glebe Mountain Wind Farm: Clean Energy vs. NIMBY* published by the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown

University.

The case will form part of the Institute's PEW Case Studies in International Affairs Collection.

The case was a finalist and a runner-up in the 2005 oikos Sustainability Case Writing Competition, sponsored by the oikos Foundation at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland).

## SUMMER 2006 COURSES

[WWW.SMCVT.EDU/GRADUATE/COURSES/SUM\\_GSA.ASP](http://WWW.SMCVT.EDU/GRADUATE/COURSES/SUM_GSA.ASP)

### 3 credits each unless listed below:

- Application of Economic Theory
- Effective Written Communication (2)
- Power & Politics in Organizations
- Human Resource Management
- Professional Effectiveness
- Sales Promotion & Advertising
- Special Topics: Hard Disk Management for Windows
- Resource Planning & Grant Writing (1)
- Independent Study (1-3)

## FALL 2006 THESIS SCHEDULE

### **Intro and Hypothesis:**

1st draft: 7/3/2006

2nd draft: 7/31/2006

### **1st class meeting:**

9/9/2006

**1st full draft of thesis:** 9/18/2006

### **One-on-one feedback:**

Week of 9/24/2006

**2nd full draft:** 10/16/2006

### **One-one-one feedback:**

Week of 10/22/2006

**3rd full draft:** 11/6/2006

### **Final recommendations:**

11/15/2006

### **Presentation seminar:**

11/16/2006

### **4th draft, if necessary:**

11/20/2006

### **Submit copies to evaluator:**

11/27/2006

**Defense:** 12/7/2006 or as scheduled

**Submit final copies:** 12/14/2006

**Advisor:** Jon Crystal

[jcrystal@sover.net](mailto:jcrystal@sover.net)

**Suggestions for the newsletter? Please contact Vitaliy Bukhtulov, [vbukhtulov@smcvt.edu](mailto:vbukhtulov@smcvt.edu) or 802.654.2315.**

**June Heston, MSA '03**  
**Executive Director**  
**Vermont Make-A-Wish Foundation**

Since June joined Make-A-Wish of Vermont, there has been a significant increase in the visibility of the Foundation in the state. When she started at Make-A-Wish in 1999, there were approximately ten wishes granted each year. Since then, wishes have grown by approximately 350 percent.

June is a volunteer and former board member of Camp Ta Kum

Ta, a one-week summer camp for children with cancer. She has also served on the Norwich Alumni Board of Directors. She currently serves on the Leadership Champlain Board.

In addition to the MSA, June holds two associate degrees from Vermont College of Norwich University and a bachelor degree in psychology from Saint Michael's.

**ALUMNI NEWS** *From Margo Miller, MSA '88:*

I now have my own consulting business after "retiring" from full time internal consulting for the City of San Diego. My focus is executive coaching, management development, strategic planning, and team development. I'm on faculty at the Temperament Research Institute of Huntington Beach and use type and temperament as the foundation for my consulting. I consistently use the theory and skills I learned

during my participation in the MSA program, especially those I learned from Ted Mable and Jim Catone. Even after all these years, my Saint Michael's learning experience stays fresh in my mind, and I continue to consider myself a student of business and management.

**We would love to hear from you!** Please email Vitaliy Bukhtulov, [vbukhtulov@smcvt.edu](mailto:vbukhtulov@smcvt.edu)

**Student Advisory Board**  
**Dinner Meeting**

**Monday, April 17, 2006**

**5:00 p.m. | Alliot Dining Room**

Students are encouraged to attend.

The board has been active in suggesting curriculum updates, admissions revisions, and student resource needs.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MSA Portfolio Workshop**

**Wednesday, April 19, 2006**

**7:30 p.m. | Jeanmarie 168**



## STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

[www.smcvt.edu/src](http://www.smcvt.edu/src)

802.654.2547

### Résumé Workshops | Vermont Room, Alliot Hall

Tuesday, March 7, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 18, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 2, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### Interviewing Skills Workshop | Vermont Room, Alliot Hall

Tuesday, March 28, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

## REFER A COLLEAGUE

As a current student or graduate of the MSA program, you are familiar with the value of the practitioner-oriented Saint Michael's education. By referring a colleague or friend, you will share your positive experience with prospective students and strengthen the program.

Please visit

[www.smcvt.edu/msa/refer](http://www.smcvt.edu/msa/refer) for our convenient referral page.

Saint Michael's Graduate Programs are hosting an **Open House** for prospective students on **Monday, April 3, 2006, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Saint Michael's Hoehl Welcome Center**. Prospective MSA students may register for classes, get application materials, or speak with MSA program representatives.

**Thank you for your ongoing support of the MSA program.**

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

Pending funding, the MSA Graduate Assistantship may be available for the upcoming academic year (September 2006-May 2007). The assistantship requires 20 hours of work per week, with compensation of approximately \$5,000 for the year and tuition credits for up to 18 hours (9 credit hours each semester).

Duties include, but are not limited to research, creation of the MSA newsletter, prospective student cor-

respondence, Web site maintenance, and participation on the Student Advisory Board.

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and the names of three references by April 14, 2006.

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