

The Finance Focus

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Event Focus ~ Careers & Curriculum in Finance 2007

Finance Faculty

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- Yatin Bhagwat
- Larry Blöse
- George Chang
- Gregg Dimkoff
- Susan Edwards
- Vijay Gondhalekar
- Frank Griggs
- Mary Kelly (Visiting Professor)
- Glenn Pettengill
- Thomas Willey
- Robyn Toth, Office Coordinator

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The 2nd Annual *Careers & Curriculum in Finance* event once again successfully presented students with the career possibilities available to them as Finance majors. "It was great to get insights straight from employers on what they like to see in new hires. I also found it encouraging that the employers had very positive things to say about Grand Valley and our business school" stated Pete Mondejar, a Finance senior.

With about 80 students, the Finance department faculty, and several guest speakers from GVSU and the local business community in attendance, topics such as internships, study abroad, employment opportunities as well as attributes employers are looking for, were some of the areas discussed. Representatives, several of whom were GVSU alumni, were from the four main fields of the finance major: Banking, Corporate Finance, Investments, and Financial Planning. The speakers presented infor-

mation about their specific companies, job duties within their positions, as well as suggestions and ideas for students to be successful in the Finance field. The companies in attendance were JSJ Corporation, Adamy and Company, Lambert, Edwards and Associates, Mercantile Bank, Fifth Third Bank, AMBS Investment Council, and John Hancock Financial Network. Dan Lupo, GVSU student and President of the IPO Club also spoke about the IPO club as well as sharing some of his own internship experiences.

The evening concluded with time for students to interact with the faculty and guest speakers. The 3rd Annual *Careers & Curriculum in Finance* event has been set for September 25, 2008.



Faculty Focus ~ A New Assistant Professor

Professor George Chang joined the Finance Department this Fall as an Assistant Professor. He received his PhD from the University of Iowa and taught at Bradley University prior to joining GVSU.

He enjoys teaching courses in Corporate Finance, Investments, International Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions, and

Derivatives. He is currently teaching FIN 320 and FIN 322. His research interests include Empirical Corporate Finance, Investments, Mutual Funds, Derivatives, and Applied Econometrics.

Please feel free to stop by 348C DeVos to welcome him to GVSU and talk about Finance.



Graduating soon? Please keep us informed of what you are doing after graduation by emailing scbfinance@gvsu.edu.

Finance Class Focus ~ FIN 321 Investments

Course description: Fundamental principles of investment, characteristics of investment and speculative assets, analysis of risk and return, operation and regulation of markets, analysis of investment requirements, types of investment trading, and timing strategies. Prerequisites: FIN 320 and STA 215. Not to be taken concurrently with FIN 320. Credits: 3

Now what does that mean? This course examines the stock, bond, options, and futures markets. It considers the institutional details of the markets, valuation models and issues, and legal and regulatory issues. This course will provide an introduction to portfolio manage-

ment and the application of efficient markets theory. Global markets are examined but the emphasis is on US domestic markets.

Some additional topics more specifically are common stock valuation in which there are fundamental and technical analysis done as well as looking at market efficiency. Bond and fixed income are looked at including government and corporate, market organization is determined as well as valuation. Also risk and diversification are studied in regards to portfolio management.

As with any of your classes seek help from the instructor, other students, or tutors for assistance if

needed. Don't be afraid to ask questions!



IPO Focus ~ Investment Portfolio Organization (IPO)

The IPO sent a group of seven students to Omaha Nebraska for the "Woodstock" of investing, the Berkshire Hathaway annual shareholders' meeting with Warren Buffet. Here are some excerpts from an article that Dan Lupo, current President of IPO wrote about the experience.

"The Seidman IPO has been known to take annual trips to Chicago or New York to see financial institutions, but last May four IPO members and three IPO alumni decided to take the pilgrimage to the slightly less glamorous Omaha, Nebraska to spend a whole weekend experiencing the Berkshire Hathaway annual

shareholders' meeting. All this was done just to see one of the most influential investment geniuses to this date, Warren Buffet. This was an opportunity for the students to sit literally fifty feet away from the likes of Warren Buffet, Charlie Munger, and Bill Gates—reaching a total aggregate net worth that could easily be compared to a small country."

"It goes without saying that this was an incredibly invaluable experience for those of us who strive for careers in finance and investing. Just being in such close proximity to some of

the most influential, and not to mention wealthy, individuals in the U.S. was in itself an inspiration and a keen reminder of why we work so hard for our education during this time in our life. Mr. Buffet was able to speak to the people who invested large sums of their own wealth in his company in a way that no other manager can; he talked to the investors as if they were some of his own friends that he plays bridge with on the weekends. All of this comes to show that management really makes a difference."

"Seidman IPO continues to develop its name and culture at GVSU, and it is trips like these that help develop our character and return wealth to our members in the form of knowledge and experience"

-Dan Lupo

Finance Major Focus ~ Four Career Areas

Within the finance major there are four career areas to consider: Banking or Financial Institutions, Corporate Finance, Financial Planning, and Investments.

Each of these career areas have recommended course lists, called tracks. These include a listing of recommended classes and ideas for finance and business electives.



Please remember that it is important to consult with your faculty advisor as these tracks are meant to be helpful hints in planning your coursework.

To see a copy of these tracks please visit the Seidman Finance Department Website and click on Academic Information.

www.gvsu.edu/business/finance

You may also visit the Finance department on the 4th floor-C Building DeVos for more information.

Plan ahead and check out the tracks to see what area of Finance interests you.

