WIN A
STUDENT
BOOKSTORE
GIFT CARD!

What’s in a name? Everything! Help the Graduate Student Advisory Board name this newsletter. We are looking for appropriate, innovative suggestions from any Seidman graduate student currently enrolled in the MBA, MSA, or MST program. The student submitting the winning entry will receive a $100 gift card to the Grand Valley Student Bookstore. Entries should be submitted via e-mail to Claudia Bajema at bajemac@gvsu.edu no later than December 15, 2006.

Graduate Student Advisory Board
Holiday Charity Project
Helping Needy Children Have a Wonderful Holiday

Please help the Graduate Student Advisory Board provide gifts to area children this holiday season. We have partnered with the Santa Claus Girls, a Grand Rapids women’s organization, to collect new children’s books for those in need. As an academic institution, we felt that it would be appropriate for the Seidman College to donate the tools that children need to enhance their education.

Bins will be available to collect these books in the Atrium between November 1 and November 20. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, a receptacle will be in place at the DeVos Bookstore to collect these funds. Thank you for helping those in need this holiday season. Your school and your community appreciate it greatly.

STUDENT LEADERS GIVING BACK
THAD VAN HAITMSMA GOES TO UGANDA

With the first snow of the season having already fallen on GVSU, it may be hard for most of us to remember what summer was like. Len Poole sat down with GVSU MBA student Thad Van Haitsma to talk about what he did last summer and what he’s up to now.

GSAB: Tell us about your summer trip to Uganda?

Thad Van Haitsma: My wife and I spent two and a half weeks (from July 31st to August 17th) in Uganda on a medical mission trip with a group of 17 people where we set up clinics throughout the country. We saw over 2,000 patients, treating adults and children with everything from infected ears and coughs to Malaria and worms.

One of the great parts of the trip was distributing the 30 soccer balls and 15 air pumps that we had purchased prior to leaving for Uganda. I had so much fun playing soccer with the kids in the different villages where we set up clinics.

The trip was absolutely amazing and opened my eyes to some of the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in developing countries. One of the couples we met in Uganda from the United States had sold their family business and had moved to Uganda in order to help Ugandans develop modern business skills. They had astonishing stories of all the layers of corruption they have had to navigate in order to help get businesses started.

GSAB: Where are you from originally and what is your family like?

Thad Van Haitsma: I’m a life long Grand Rapids, MI resident. I live with my wife Michelle in the East Hills neighborhood of the city. We have been married for six years. We met at Calvin College and Michelle received her Masters of Social Work from GVSU. No kids but a black lab/hound mix dog named Moby.
A VISIT WITH PARVEZ SOPARIWALA

Grand Valley State University Seidman College of Business is known for its exceptional faculty. Parvez Sopariwala is not only an expert in cost accounting systems, but also a student favorite. He graciously granted Graduate Student Advisory Board member Heidi Beckemeyer time to share thoughts about his education, work, and experiences.

GSAB: Where did you get your undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate degrees from and in what areas?

Professor Sopariwala: Bombay University in India – undergraduate degree – major in Accounting and Auditing, Bowling Green State University – MBA – concentration in Management Information Systems and Michigan State University – Doctorate in Accounting

GSAB: Why did you choose your field? What areas of your field interest you the most and why?

Professor Sopariwala: In India, there were three fields to choose from to study: Science, Commerce and Arts. The Commerce (i.e., Business) field seemed the most suited to me. I was not sure that I made the right choice until I began interning for the CA (i.e., Chartered Accountant or the Indian equivalent to the CPA) certification. I interned with A. F. Ferguson, then the largest CA firm in India, for 3 years and observed how the theories learned in college actually translated into practice. This experience was very rewarding, almost an epiphany, and helped me realize that accounting was the field for me. In addition, auditing in India allowed me to explore the cost accounting systems of many U.S. and European multinationals – this background is invaluable even today when I teach Cost/Managerial Accounting.

GSAB: What do you enjoy about teaching at Seidman?

Professor Sopariwala: i. The beautiful facilities…very modern technology makes it easier to teach students. 
ii. The talented and diverse students and faculty.
iii. GVSU is a great employer to work for – which explains why so few of us leave before retirement.

GSAB: How long have you been at Seidman and what convinced you to teach here?

Professor Sopariwala: I have been with Seidman since 1992. Once I began applying for positions, I decided that Grand Valley was well suited for me. Moved to Michigan for a colder climate after teaching in Virginia. Everything just fell into place, and Grand Valley gave me a great offer.

GSAB: What advice would you give students upon graduation?

Professor Sopariwala: For MBA students, take the courses in areas that you are weak in or in areas where you can make a distinct contribution, even though these courses may be hard. While most MBA students may not wish to give up their present jobs, a mere MBA isn’t about giving that student a great advantage in their present job either. However, if you fill up the gaps in your knowledge or specialize in what you love, then your employer may find that the MBA did, in fact, add value. I love what I do immensely, and my job gives me a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. When you truly enjoy doing something, it becomes a part of your personal life…work is almost like a hobby when you enjoy it enough. This is important in life.

GSAB: Please recommend a book in your field or in an area that you enjoy for graduate students and share why you recommend it.

Continued on Page 3
GSAB: Where & what did you do for your undergrad work?

**Thad Van Haitsma**: Calvin College, Social Science Group Major with an emphasis in Business and Sociology, Art Minor. Graduated in 2000.

GSAB: Tell us about some of your volunteer work?

**Thad Van Haitsma**: Last semester I volunteered at West Michigan Environmental Action Council where I helped to put together West Michigan FRESH: A Guide for Local Food. The guide is distributed throughout West Michigan and is a source for consumers looking for food produced locally.

In addition to being a graduate assistant for the Small Business & Technology Development Center, this school year I am volunteering two days a week at Neighborhood Ventures. The non-profit organization is working to “inject vitality into the heart of each neighborhood by revitalizing its business district.” I am helping selected business districts with understanding and implementing Business Improvement Districts and Corridor Improvement Districts as a way to achieve economic sustainability and community revitalization.

This year I am involved in a number of campus organizations. First, I am the Vice-President of the Graduate & Professional Student Association, which strives to promote interdisciplinary communication and collaboration in order to enhance the student experience. The Association’s hope is that by fostering the development of a graduate student community at Grand Valley State University graduate students will develop academically, intellectually, professionally, and socially.

Second, I am one of two student elected representatives on the Graduate Council. The Council is responsible for matters related to graduate education at GVSU. In this capacity I am also on the Curriculum Subcommittee.

Third, I am a member of the Seidman Graduate Student Advisory Board, which advises the Dean and works to strengthen the Master level programs offered by the Seidman College of Business.

Finally, I am the Vice President of Membership for the DeVos campus Toastmaster’s club. Toastmasters helps people learn to effectively speak, conduct meetings, manage a department or business, lead, delegate and motivate.

Over the past couple of years I have also volunteered at a number of different organizations in the West Michigan area, such as Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Young Delinquent Intensive Intervention Program, and the Cascade Library system.

GSAB: Tell us more about Toastmasters?

**Thad Van Haitsma**: Toastmasters is an international organization that teaches individuals to speak to groups and work with others in a supportive environment. I have always been fearful of talking in front of groups, which stems from having a speech impediment when I was younger. Toastmasters has helped me develop confidence speaking to groups and also during my MBA classes.

**Continued from Page 2**

**Professor Sopariwala**: I recommend two books:
- *Cost and Effect* by Kaplan and Cooper
- *Total Capacity Management* by McNair and Vangermeersch

These books are great because they demonstrate new horizons in managerial and cost accounting.

GSAB: What do you like to do in your free time?

**Professor Sopariwala**: Read, spend time with family (have a daughter in high school), and travel- have visited family in India in the past few years and visited Alaska this summer.
Greetings! Seidman faculty and staff hope that you are having a productive and enjoyable fall semester. It’s hard to believe that Thanksgiving is nearly here, and that means that exams, the end of the semester, and Commencement are just around the corner. There are three things that I’d like to share with you today: accreditation and our recent review, ethics in the curriculum, and sustainable business as a special topics course.

Accreditation. The Seidman College hosted an AACSB visitation team in October as the first phase of a new maintenance of accreditation process. The team will make its recommendations to accreditation committees at the AACSB who will, in turn, make their recommendations to the AACSB Board of Directors in December. The official determination will be announced in January, but preliminary feedback from the visitation team was very positive.

Maintaining AACSB accreditation is important to us, as it is to you. Essentially, accreditation is the endorsement of your degree by an unbiased and knowledgeable body, indeed the premier business school accrediting body. Only a fraction of business schools in the West Michigan area and around the world have met the rigorous requirements of AACSB, and we are proud to be among those. Among the factors considered is the quality of students, and you and your colleagues unequivocally met the expectations of the team.

Ethics. I’d also like to provide you an update on graduate curriculum. While students were hitting their books last fall, faculty members were also busy - discussing the role of ethics in graduate programs. The results are a 3-credit elective in accounting ethics, primarily for MSA students, and a 1.5-credit required ethics course for MBA students. In conjunction with this focus on ethics, the Seidman College is honored to feature George Hamilton, President, Dow Automotive, as the first speaker in our new Distinguished Executives Lecture Series for graduate business students. Mr. Hamilton will speak on “How to Succeed: Vigor, Vigilance and Values” on Nov. 7, 6:00 p.m., Loosemore Auditorium. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please note that, while we think the new MBA ethics course (BUS 677) will benefit all MBA students, it is not a requirement for those of you admitted prior to fall semester 2006. Once you are admitted, your contract with Grand Valley is the catalog of the year of your admission, as long as you remain an active student.

Sustainable business. Last year, your Seidman Graduate Student Advisory Board discussed the importance of sustainable business and asked that Seidman consider offering a course on the subject of sustainable business. The result is that winter semester 2007, Dean Williams and Norman Christopher are team teaching a 1.5-credit elective, Sustainable Businesses and Organizations: Principles and Practices. Norman Christopher is the University’s sustainability expert. Because the course has not gone through the entire curriculum process, it is being taught this year as a special topic (MGT 680). It will partner nicely with BUS 677, Ethical Problems and Perspectives, which is offered the first half of the winter semester. Sustainable Businesses and Organizations will meet the second half of winter semester.

Even if you are not required to take the ethics course, you may want to consider this combination of two courses as equivalent to one three-credit elective. There is also a 1.5-credit Consumer Behavior (MKT 680) course that partners nicely with the ethics course.

Thanksgiving seems like the most appropriate time to tell you how much we appreciate that you have chosen to pursue your graduate studies with the Seidman College of Business. Thank you for your commitment and for representing Seidman so well in your industries, organizations, and communities. Our students and alumni make all of us at Seidman very proud!

Sincerely,
Claudia Bajema
Director, Graduate Business Programs

Seidman Mission Statement
The Seidman College of Business provides a rigorous learning environment, with a student focus, a regional commitment, and a global perspective. In its teaching, scholarship and service activities the College innovates, applies knowledge, and integrates concepts.
Overview of the MBA Study-Abroad Program to Grenoble, France

As our economy becomes increasingly internationalized, it is important to develop a global perspective on business and culture. A unique opportunity to foster the development of such a perspective comes from this study-abroad program to Grenoble, France. The program will explore public, private and mixed enterprises in terms of competitiveness, equity, social justice and nationalism in this important country in the European Union. Program participants will also have a significant opportunity to experience French life and culture.

Coursework in Grenoble will be a combination of lectures by Groupe ESC-Grenoble faculty (the Financial Times recently rated the MBA Program at the Grenoble School of Management as the 4th best in Europe!) and visits to international companies and public and international agencies. Nestled in the heart of the French Alps, Grenoble is host to many companies including Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, Rhone-Poulenc, and Schneider. (Student participants will be able to have some input into the companies that are chosen to be visited.) Additional visits may include the International Committee of the Red Cross in nearby Geneva, Switzerland and the world’s second largest retailer, Carrefour. There will also be several tourist trips, such as to the medieval town of Annecy, and the breathtaking French Alps. Additionally, the final weekend of the program will be held in Paris!

This course is designed for GVSU MBA and MPA students, but graduate student from other programs may apply. Students will register for a total of three credits:

- ECO 680: Selected Topics in International Business
- OR PA 680: Special Topics in Public Administration

The class will meet for two weeks in France, with a few additional class meetings in Grand Rapids. The trip to France is tentatively scheduled for May 12-May 27.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Language of Instruction</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
<th>Application Deadlines</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2 weeks</td>
<td>3.0 GPA</td>
<td>3-Star Hotels in Grenoble &amp; Paris</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Graduate Credit Only</td>
<td>Jan. 15</td>
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Program Fee: The cost of the program is approximately $4250 per student (plus GVSU tuition). This fee includes: airfare, hotels, train tickets (and other ground transportation costs for the various site visits), cultural activities, and some meals.

January 15 is the due date for enrolling. For additional information please contact:

Dan Giedeman
Assistant Professor of Economics Seidman College of Business
401 West Fulton, Suite 486C 616-331-7488
Grand Rapids, MI 49504 giedemad@gvsu.edu
The Seidman Distinguished Executives Lecture Series is proud to present

George Hamilton
President, Dow Automotive

"How to Succeed -- Vigor, Vigilance and Values"

Joining Dow in 1977, George Hamilton has held various positions, rising to Vice President of Automotive Materials in 2000, and most recently to Dow Automotive President. Hamilton brings a wealth of experience to this topic.

Please join us Tuesday, November 7, 2006

**Refreshments:** 5:15 p.m.
**Presentation:** 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center
Grand Valley State University Pew Campus
401 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids
Upcoming Events

November 1-20  
Book Collection for Santa Claus Girls  
(See receptacles in atrium at DeVos Center)

November 6  
Pizza with the Dean in Holland  
5:30 p.m  
Holland Campus

November 7  
Distinguished Lecturer George Hamilton  
(refreshments preceding address)  
6:00 p.m.  
Loosemore Auditorium

November 8  
Secchia Breakfast: George Hamilton  
7:30 a.m.  
Loosemore Auditorium

November 7-26  
Thanksgiving Recess

December 9  
Fall Semester Classes End

December 9  
Commencement  
10:00 a.m.  
Van Andel Arena

December 11-16  
Exams

January 3  
New Graduate Student Orientation  
5:30 p.m.  
Loosemore Auditorium

January 8  
Winter Semester Begins

January 15  
Washington Campus Applications Due

January 22-25  
Pizza with the Dean  
5:00 p.m.  
University Club Room

Graduate Student Advisory Board

The purpose of the Graduate Student Advisory Board for the Seidman College of Business is:

To support the mission and vision of the Seidman College of Business

To promote a closer relationship and enhance communication between students and the faculty, staff and administration of the Seidman College of Business in ways that will foster and encourage student participation and constructive feedback among all parties

To strengthen existing graduate programs by identifying the needs of business students and the College’s role in preparing those students for professional careers

To provide input, advice, and counsel, where feasible, to the Dean and the Director of Graduate Business Programs of the Seidman College of Business

To serve as ambassadors for the Seidman graduate programs with both internal and external constituencies.

The Board is composed of graduate students in the MBA, MSA and MST programs with the following current members:

Heidi Beckemeyer  
Joe Berlin  
Joanne Brouse

Jerome Drain  
Mark Harcek  
Andrew Johnson  
Dave Johnson

Andrew Miedema  
Len Poole  
Phil Rolfe  
Jeffery Sattler

Kris Spaulding  
Alex Vandertol  
Thad Van Haitsma

Dean H. James Williams  
Claudia Bajema
ENHANCE YOUR SEIDMAN EXPERIENCE THROUGH THESE ORGANIZATIONS

BETA ALPHA PSI
Beta Alpha Psi, an accounting honorary fraternity, is for motivated accounting students interested in learning more about the accounting profession. Kappa Beta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi has experienced extensive growth within the last year. Currently, the chapter has 116 members and has become one of the five largest of the honorary's 263 chapters throughout the world.

This year our chapter regained the "Superior" designation, the highest distinction awarded to chapters by the national organization. The designation is based on professional development and community service hours on a per-member basis. During August 2006, our chapter presented two presentations at the BAP annual meeting in Washington D.C.

In the fall we focus on preparing our members for recruiting by hosting our annual Pre-Recruiting Night and touring local CPA firms during our Thursday night meetings. The tours benefit firms and students during recruiting season. Two other very exciting events for Beta this fall include Peter Secchia speaking to Beta on November 9, and an international night focusing on "Doing Business Abroad" on November 30. Information about these events and more can be found at http://www.gvsu.edu/bap. Any questions? E-mail us at bap@student.gvsu.edu.

How TOASTMASTERS Can Help You
Toastmasters is an international speaking club that is designed to help individuals enhance their speaking skills in a safe and educational setting. In order to be successful in business, it is necessary to effectively communicate, conduct meetings, manage a department or business, lead, delegate and motivate others. A typical Toastmasters meeting involves fun, educational activities, such as table topics and ice breakers. The DeVos campus Toastmasters' club meets Thursday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in room 117E. The club is made up of GVSU graduate students, GVSU staff members, and community members. The current Toastmaster participants would love for you to stop by and observe a meeting to learn more about this great opportunity. For more information or to find out about other clubs in Grand Rapids, please contact Laura Kruisenga at LKruisenga@stjohnshome.org.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) is striving to promote interdisciplinary communication and collaboration in order to enhance the graduate student experience. This is done by fostering the graduate student community at Grand Valley State University through promoting academic, intellectual, professional, and social development. In its second year of existence, GPSA is expanding its services from an increased number of mini-grants for workshops, conferences and training to social events in order to foster cross-program networking opportunities. To learn more about the organization, to become a GPSA member, and/or To participate in activities please contact the Association’s President Paula Rosenberg at rosenbpa@gvsu.edu.
Tentative Electives for 2007-08

Following are electives that have been tentatively scheduled for next year. This is a list of electives only. All MBA prerequisites, core, and directed electives are generally offered every semester. MSA core courses are offered at least two semesters each year, and MST required courses are offered on an annual rotation. Questions should be directed to Claudia in the Graduate Business Office.

The schedule will not be firm until late January.

Summer 2007 (electives):
- ACC 609 Individual Income Taxation and Research
- ACC 615 Entity Taxation
- ACC 628 Estate Gift and Trust II
- ACC 631 Employee Benefit Plans and Deferred Compensation
- BUS 698 The Washington Campus Program
- MGT 666 Operations Strategy
- MKT 680 New Product

Fall 2007 (electives):
- ACC 610 Intermediate Accounting
- ACC 612 Accountant’s Legal Environment
- ACC 615 Entity Taxation
- ACC 633 International Tax Practice
- ACC 680 Accounting Ethics
- ECO 645 International Economic Issues
- FIN 624 Investments
- MGT 632 Contemporary Communications
- MGT 672 Creativity and Entrepreneurship
- MGT 680 Special Topics in ERP
- MKT 660 Marketing Research and Analysis
- MKT 680 Special Topic: Sustainable Marketing (1.5 cr)

Winter 2008:
- ACC 614 Auditing
- ACC 623 Sales, Exchanges, and Other Property Dispositions
- ACC 625 Corporate Tax II
- ACC 639 Federal Tax Practice and Procedure
- ACC 680 Special Topics: Forensic Accounting
- BUS 644 International Business
- ECO 642 Corporate Strategy for Business Cycles
- FIN 628 Portfolio Analysis (title to be changed to “Derivatives”)
- MGT 635 Planned Change
- MKT 661 Internet Marketing
- MKT 680 Special Topic: Consumer Behavior (1.5 cr)