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# Seidman College of Business

Undergraduate Student Services Newsletter • DeVos Center, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
616-331-7500 • go2gvbiz@gvsu.edu

*A newsletter for undergraduate  
students of business.*

• H. James Williams, Dean •  
• John Reifel, Associate Dean • Leigh Brownley, Director Undergraduate Business Programs •  
• Alexandra Schmid, Special Programs Coordinator •

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## Middle East Etiquette Dinner

By Isra Isra El-beshir, Polina Goncharova, and Melissa Gregorio,  
Society for the Advancement of Management and International Business



**SAM-i executive officers (pictured above) were among the many attendees who enjoyed the Middle Eastern Etiquette Dinner**

The Society for the Advancement of Management and International Business (SAM-i) and the International Club hosted their annual International Business etiquette dinner in November in the Alumni House on the Allendale Campus. Each year SAM-i strives to focus on a certain geographical or regional area that is quite prosperous in the global market arena. This year the focus was on the Middle East. The evening encompassed cultural awareness, business interactions, two-sided cultural study abroad experiences from GVSU students, as well as phenomenal Arabic cuisine catered by Sammy's Pita House. Over 100 students took advantage of this opportunity to learn about business etiquette in the Middle East.

We began the evening with Dr. Majd Al-Mallah, professor and chair of the Middle Eastern Studies Department. He gave an overview of the vast cultures that exist in the Middle East and emphasized that students should leave with a clear understanding that *"Arabs are not all Muslims and Muslims are not all Arab."*

Following the professor, two Grand Valley Students, who were quite humorous, gave us insight on their cultural experiences in the Middle East. Hannan Saleh, an international student from Saudi Arabia, highlighted on the stereotypes that she feared when coming to America and gave some entertaining examples. Eric Hunting, an American student who studied in Amman, Jordan in summer of 2006, gave us insight of his culture shocks and experiences.

Concluding the event, Dr. Samir IsHak, of the Management Department, gave us a detailed insight of the most imperative business issues that exist in the Middle East. His topic intertwined with the cultural aspects as well, mentioning that "social life is an integral part of doing business." Dr. IsHak left the students with a vital piece of information that will define their success in business in the Middle East, "Be Patient!"

*Support for this event was provided by: The Seidman Dean's Office, International Business Department, Middle Eastern Studies Department, Muslim Student Association, Arab Culture Club, and the Student Life Fund. All those involved helped make this event a success!*

*For more information on SAM-i, please contact us at [gvsusami@gmail.com](mailto:gvsusami@gmail.com) or visit <http://gvsusami.blogspot.com/>*

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## New Advising Structure: Seidman Undergraduate Student Services

To help serve you most efficiently, during the weeks that classes are in session, the Seidman Undergraduate Student Services Office is here to assist you during the times listed below:

### DeVos Center (101B DEV)

Monday: Walk-ins (10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and appointments (10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Tuesday and Wednesday - Walk-ins ONLY 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday (10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) and Friday (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) - Appointments ONLY (NO walk-ins)

Allendale – Fall and winter: Appointments only (times vary by semester)

To set an appointment with a Seidman Academic Advisor, please give us a call at 616-331-7500.

## Researching International Travel

By Linda Masselink, Associate Librarian



Linda Masselink,  
Associate Librarian

Visiting, working or studying abroad?

For any international travel, it always makes you look good if you have done some research before you go. Several University Libraries resources can help you prepare to travel abroad. Below is a short list of information resources to help you: *Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands* (Steel Ref HF5389 .M67 2006) provides information on doing business in more than sixty countries. Numerous embassies and other sources were consulted for business practices, cultural orientation, value systems, protocol, and gestures. Latin America and Europe are the focus of two other editions of *Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands*.

If you are going to be spending an extended period of time in a foreign country, find information on business, living and working conditions in Craighead's *International Business, Travel and Relocation Guide to 90 Countries* (Steel Ref HF5549.5 .E45 D56).

*Blunders in International Business* (Steel HD62 .4 .R53) can show you some of the pitfalls if you are not careful while trying to globalize a business. Looking at the importance of the roles of culture and communication, you learn about the significance of product names, marketing, and the importance of careful translations when working in an international environment.

*You Eat What You Are: People, Culture and Food Traditions* (Main GT2850 .B37) will eliminate some surprises in food selection while traveling internationally. Everyday foods and eating customs as well as delicacies of a particular country are noted in this book.

*Global Business Etiquette: a Guide to International Communication and Customs* (Steel HF5389 .M375 2006) raises your "sensitivity to other ways of thinking and being," while communicating in international encounters.

How about *CQ: Developing Cultural Intelligence at Work* (Steel HF5549.5 .M5 E17 2006)? This book can help you with a better understanding of working in a culturally diverse workplace.

Some helpful databases for researching foreign countries include *Proquest ABI/Inform Global* EIU Viewswire for individual country information. *Business Source Complete* has Country Profiles. A great website is *GlobalEdge*: <http://globaledge.msu.edu> "a knowledge web portal" of business information. Country Insights at this site give you an introduction and overview of each country listed. "Quick Links" takes you to *Country Commercial Guides*, *World Bank*, *Economist Country Briefings*, and other useful resources for researching international information.

The University Libraries has several foreign language dictionaries. It is especially good to learn some frequently used phrases to use when you are in another country. Your efforts are appreciated. Learning how to say good morning, hello, please, thank you, goodbye and other expressions in the language of the country you are visiting will put you in a positive light. Linda Masselink, Steelcase Library, [masselil@gvsu.edu](mailto:masselil@gvsu.edu)

## Grand Valley Team Helps Fight Human Trafficking

By Alecia Dillon, Accounting and General Management Major

Many people think that slavery died out when it was abolished in the U.S. in the 1860s, but today there are roughly 27 million slaves in the world. This is more than at any other time in human history. Human trafficking is a global problem that affects every country, including the United States. This crime is the fastest growing international business, and generates roughly \$19 billion annually. Men, women and children are exploited in the commercial sex industry, various forms of labor, including agricultural and factory work, as domestic servants, as child soldiers, as child camel jockeys, and even for the organ trade.

Thanks to the hard work of anti-trafficking activists, and survivors themselves, the crime of slavery is beginning to be prosecuted, with more appropriate sentencing for traffickers occurring. In the U.S., human trafficking is not yet a well-known issue among average citizens. Think of the Global AIDS movement twenty years ago, when practically nobody paid attention to the pandemic. But activists kept fighting to raise awareness and get more funding to combat global AIDS, and today most Americans have heard about that issue. Like them, we continue to raise general awareness about human trafficking as well as secure funding to support the survivors and at-risk groups.



**Team members proudly promote their cause**

In order to keep the fight going against human trafficking right here in Michigan, five students from GVSU's Seidman College of Business have banded together with The Emancipation Network (TEN) to raise funds and increase awareness of the issue. Team members Jamie Belisle, Stephanie DeJonge, Alecia Dillon, Whitney Morse, and Jennifer



**Team members staff the information table at one of the Human Trafficking Awareness events they hosted**

Stehouwer hosted Human Trafficking Awareness Events on October 30th and November 13th on GVSU's Pew Campus. Guests had the opportunity to learn about human trafficking, receive printed information and resources about the crime, and buy beautiful handicrafts that were made by survivors of the human trade. Several attendees also signed up to host their own in-home "Awareness Party."

The Emancipation Network (TEN) is a national abolitionist organization committed to fighting the problem of modern-day slavery. TEN operates by buying handicraft products made by survivors of trafficking around the world and selling them online and at Awareness Events across the U.S., while continually raising awareness of this human rights crisis across the globe. Profits from the sale of these handicrafts are sent back to their countries of origin, including Nepal, Cambodia, India, Thailand, Ukraine, and Russia. TEN also helps fund trafficking prevention and rescue work with its partner organizations to provide education, prevention programs, after-care of survivors, and job training for both survivors and persons at high risk of being trafficked.

*If you are interested in learning more about stopping human trafficking, purchasing products, hosting your own awareness party, or would like to donate, visit [www.madebysurvivors.com](http://www.madebysurvivors.com), or contact The Emancipation Network:*

**Sarah Symons**  
**The Emancipation Network**  
**[www.madebysurvivors.com](http://www.madebysurvivors.com)**  
**[sarah@madebysurvivors.com](mailto:sarah@madebysurvivors.com)**  
**1-800-831-6089**



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## A Banner Year for Registration

It's that time of year again! Registration for the next academic year, spring/summer 2008, fall 2008, and winter 2009, begins in March, after spring break. Preparing early for registration is the key to securing a schedule that best meets your needs and interests. Here's the best process:

1. Take time during January to review your degree evaluation to prepare for registration. Degree evaluation reports are accessible through My Banner, and instructions are posted on the Seidman Blackboard Announcements.
2. Check for the schedule to be finalized on-line toward the end of February. When it is, pick out the sections that you want. (Be sure to have a few alternate sections chosen, just in case your first option is closed by your day to register.)
3. **Sophomore students** will need **permits** for 300/400 level Seidman courses, and **senior students** will need **permits** for MGT 495 or ECO 495. **GET YOUR PERMITS EARLY.** Once you've chosen your sections, bring your planned schedule to Seidman Undergraduate Student Services (101B DEV). The Seidman academic advisors will write your permits, as long as you meet the prerequisite requirements. If you don't need permits, then you can proceed to step 4. **REMEMBER!** *The fastest way to register is to do so on-line first thing in the morning on your day to register for all of the courses for which you are eligible to register. Only the students listed above need permits.*
4. Drop your registration forms, and any associated permits, off at Records (150 STU or the Transaction Windows at DEV). They will hold the forms until your day to register in March. On that day, they will go through the forms that they received, in the order in which they were received, and register you for classes, *as long as the classes are still open.*

*Only officially declared Seidman majors are eligible to register themselves for 300/400 level Seidman courses.*

*To declare an official Seidman College of Business major, you need to have 55 or more earned hours and a 2.75 or higher overall grade point average.*

*If you meet these requirements, please send us an email with your name, G-number, and intended major to: [go2gvbiz@gvsu.edu](mailto:go2gvbiz@gvsu.edu)*

If you would like to review your remaining requirements with a Seidman academic advisor, we encourage you to call Seidman Undergraduate Student Services to set up an appointment for January or early February. Appointments are available on both the Grand Rapids and Allendale campuses and may be scheduled by calling 616-331-7500.

### \$\$ Money Options \$\$

This is the time of year when you need to search for ways to defray costs for the 2008-2009 school year. One approach is to apply for scholarships. Most scholarship deadlines are in February and March, so **now is the time to apply.**

The list of scholarships that are available specifically for business students can be found at [www.gvsu.edu/business](http://www.gvsu.edu/business), then Undergraduate Programs, then Scholarships.

Also contact the Financial Aid office (616-331-3234) to determine if there are other university scholarships that are right for you, or check out their helpful scholarship information on-line. Go to [www.gvsu.edu/financialaid](http://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid), then, from the menu on the left, select 'Scholarships'. Need-based scholarships do require that you have a current "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" on file. The

Financial Aid Department suggests that you also check these scholarship search web sites:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.fastaid.com](http://www.fastaid.com)  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com)  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
[www.blackexcel.org/link4.htm](http://www.blackexcel.org/link4.htm)  
[www.college-scholarships.com](http://www.college-scholarships.com)  
[www.finaid.org/scholarships/other.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/other.phtml)  
[www.going2college.org](http://www.going2college.org)  
[www.collegegold.com](http://www.collegegold.com)

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