

THE FGB TIME \$

Fall 2010

A publication of the Missouri State
University Finance & General
Business Department

www.missouristate.edu/fgb



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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Another calendar year has come and gone. While 2010 might not specifically be remembered for this, the FGB Department made a significant change that will affect every student who takes one of our courses in the future. Historically, courses within the FGB Department fell under one of two prefixes, RIL (real estate, insurance, and law) or FGB (finance, and basically everything else). Beginning with the Fall 2010 semester, the department adopted more descriptive course prefixes, such as BUS (general business courses), FIN (finance), INS (insurance), and LAW (business law). In some cases, a course is “cross-listed” so that a student may choose the prefix under which they take the course. The course in negotiation/dispute resolution may be taken as BUS 550, most likely for the general business student, or as LAW 550, most likely for the legal studies in business minor or aspiring law school student. Real estate law may be taken as FIN 368, as it is a requirement under the real estate option of the finance major, or it may be taken as LAW 368, as it may be of interest to a student who is pursuing further legal education and wishes to emphasize the law content of the class on their transcript. The faculty believe that this will make students’ transcripts more informative, will better organize courses by area of study, and will allow students to emphasize certain disciplines they have pursued within their course of study. Hopefully, the change also makes it easier for students to find courses in the catalog and schedule of classes.



Dr. Kent Ragan

The year also marked the approval of the department’s financial planning program (an option on the finance major) by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. as a board-registered program. This approval allows graduates from our program to immediately sit for the CFP® exam upon completion of required courses at MSU. I believe that the board registration of our program will provide additional opportunities for growth of the program and additional professional opportunities for our graduates. Dr. James Philpot, director of the program, was instrumental in the board approval process and can provide further information about the program.

Personally, I was pleased to see our students’ stellar performance on the CFA® Level I exam. Of our five CFA University Scholars students, four of them passed the CFA Level I exam in June. Our 80% pass rate is almost double the worldwide pass rate of 42% of candidates taking the June exam. While Level I is only the first of three levels, I am confident that our students who pass Level I while they are enrolled here are well ahead of their fellow students, and will be well-received into the job market and the investments profession. I commend our students and faculty for their commitment to the CFA program.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: TYLER SMITHSON

While a senior in high school, Tyler Smithson convinced his business teacher to create a class on finance. The result? A trader was born. “With just two students enrolled, my instructor and I would spend 50 minutes each day trading equities and options while watching CNBC. It was a fantastic learning experience!” Smithson, a December 2009 B.S. in Finance graduate, is currently an accelerated MBA student and will graduate in December 2010.

Smithson was introduced to the stock market by one of his four older brothers who told him about a company called Sprint PCS, and how its stock price had quadrupled in less than two weeks. At the time, Smithson had never even thought about the stock market. However, quickly comprehending the potential profits available to those who bought low and sold high, Tyler wrote his dad a check and told him to open a trading account. Since that time, Tyler has made hundreds of trades in both equities and commodities that have nurtured his passion and knowledge of the markets. However, one of Smithson’s most profitable trades could be attributed to a little old-fashioned good luck. “A couple of years ago

I shorted (selling a stock with the intention of buying it back later at a lower price) United Airlines while waiting for a class to start. Less than a minute later, I watched with excitement and disbelief as the stock price plummeted. I quick bought it back to cover my position and realized a 60% gain. Apparently there was an erroneous publication by Reuters that United was filing for bankruptcy.”

Smithson has enjoyed being a student at Missouri State, especially summer session classes. “The campus is virtually empty, the teachers are a bit less strict, and the classes are so intense due to the short session that you develop lasting bonds with your fellow classmates.” Smithson’s favorite professor at Missouri State is Dr. Stephen Haggard. “In his FIN 780 course, he really took the time to acknowledge me as an individual. He selected me for a group trip to the Edward Jones headquarters in St. Louis.”

Smithson’s career goals include eventually becoming the chief financial officer of a Fortune 500 company. “I’ve always enjoyed reading the financial statements of large corporations, researching their various business segments, and brainstorming ways to make them stronger. As CFO, I would get paid to do this.” More immediately, after obtaining his MBA, Smithson will be working toward a second master’s degree in accounting. His goal is to become an audit manager for a top-10 national accounting firm in a few years. In the little spare time he has, Smithson enjoys watching football with his girlfriend, Nicole, and Boston terrier, Walter.



MSU Finance Major Tyler Smithson

ALUM UPDATE: KYLE MOLES

Kyle Moles is a 2006 finance graduate of Missouri State University. Moles works as a Financial Representative at Northwestern Mutual, a 152-year old company with more than three million insurance and investment clients. In his role as a Financial Representative, Moles manages a financial services practice concentrated on serving high net worth individuals. When asked what he likes about his role at Northwestern Mutual, Moles says, “I love helping people plan and execute financial goals. My clients come from all different walks of life and are from all over the globe. This makes both the planning we do and the people I work with very interesting.”



MSU Alums Kyle and Kelli Moles at the Taj Mahal in India.

Kyle’s hometown is Harrisonville, Missouri, but he currently lives in Boston with his wife Kelli Wolf Moles (also a 2006 MSU graduate). When asked how his MSU education prepared him for his current role, Moles cites the combination of Missouri State’s academic rigor and its public affairs mission. He states that, “the classes put me ahead on the learning curve, while the Public Affairs mission has allowed me to develop great relationships with others at Northwestern along with my clients. Additionally, my wife, Kelli, and I have raised over \$100K and organized 45 people to go on trips to Africa, which all started while we were at Missouri State.” Kyle and Kelli have worked together to start a health center in Ghana, West Africa and continue to support the center through fundraising and recruitment of volunteers. When recalling his studies at MSU, Kyle fondly remembers his professor mentors; Dr. Stan Adamson –who taught him about insurance – and Dr. Jim Scott – who taught him about financial markets.

Moles’ life during his campus years was anything but boring. He was a member of the Student Government Association, served on the Student Activity Council, and worked on the University’s Public Affairs Week. He also studied abroad in Liege, Belgium for a semester through MSU’s International Business Program. He did manage to find a bit of time for recreation as a member of the ski and wakeboard club. When asked for his advice to current FGB students, Kyle says that students should “think big and get involved. MSU has a ton of resources – take advantage! You will never have as much time and flexibility in your life as you do right now. Jump in front of every opportunity you can, and use MSU’s growing alumni to your advantage.”

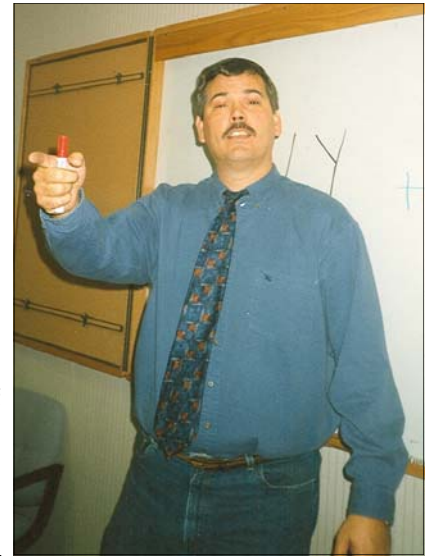


Kyle’s job keeps him quite busy but, when he has time, he enjoys boating, fishing, hunting, snowboarding and traveling the world with his wife Kelli. They have visited 38 countries together, with a goal of visiting 50 countries before they turn 30. Kelli who is also a Missouri State graduate, is working towards her MBA at Harvard.



FACULTY FOCUS: WAYNE ANDERSON

Professor Wayne Anderson joined the faculty of Missouri State University (then Southwest Missouri State University) in 1984. Through the years, he has won multiple teaching awards, including the Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award (1993), University Teaching Award (2000), and the College of Business Administration Teaching Award (2002, 2005).



Wayne Anderson

Professor Anderson's recent course offerings include LAW 231 (Legal Environment of Business), LAW 332 (Debtor and Creditor Rights and Remedies), and CIS 747 (a cyber-law course for the MSCIS program). The average class size for his LAW courses is about 70 students with intersession classes running as high as 130. His courses focus on the legal difficulties that students might encounter in both their professional and private lives. As Professor Anderson puts it, "I am not trying to create Junior Attorneys in my class, rather I am trying to keep them out of trouble by showing them when they need legal counsel and when they should be extremely cautious."

Professor Anderson is an accomplished researcher and writer as well. His articles have been published in the *Journal of the Missouri Bar* and the *Computer Law Journal*. He has also authored a book called *The Legal Profession: Is it for You?*

Prior to his move to Missouri, Professor Anderson lived in Southern California for many years. He attended University of California at Irvine for his undergraduate degree, and received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from California Western in San Diego. Professor Anderson practiced law for a few years before starting his academic career in Missouri. His education also includes an MBA degree from Drury in Springfield, Missouri. Professor Anderson is married to Janice, a physical therapist. They have three children – all in college now. In his spare time, Professor Anderson is, in his own words, "definitely a car guy." He enjoys working on cars and participating in car shows. Also for fun, he works on a farm most weekends, chopping wood, raising blueberries, and "messaging" around with the tractor.

Looking back at his tenure at Missouri State University, Professor Anderson gives much credit to Dr. Vencil Bixler, former head of the Finance and General Business department, for being a great mentor and boss. After extensive discussion of Anderson's farming interest, Dr. Bixler offered him a course to teach utilizing that experience. That course expanded rapidly to Professor Anderson's current status.

Professor Anderson is the faculty adviser for Delta Sigma Pi (a business fraternity) and has served in that role for 21 years. When asked what career advice he would give to students, Professor Anderson says "My advice to students is to find a major that really sings to them. When you enjoy the material you will do well and will be willing to go the extra mile. If you know what kind of job you are ultimately looking for, then become involved with related groups (on and off campus) to learn all you can prior to starting your career. Sure, your employer will give you some training but they will assume that you arrive at the interview with an applicable skill set and knowledge of the given field. Do some internships and externships and volunteer at a business that does the type of work you hope to do. Get your foot in the door and assure yourself that this is the right career move for you. Find a job you love."

FGB GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

For the Fall 2010 semester, FGB department welcomed two new and four returning graduate assistants.

Our new graduate assistants are:

David Beller is from St. Louis, Missouri. He finished his undergraduate degree in finance from Missouri State University this past spring and is currently working on his MBA with an emphasis in finance. David is pursuing the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation and would like to investigate financial fraud as a profession. David believes that corruption, deceit, and greed are major issues affecting the financial world and would like to do his part in restoring trust and justice to the industry. In his spare time, David enjoys gourmet food, cooking, riding his bike, watching the St. Louis Cardinals, and travelling. This past summer, he toured Europe with his brother.

Laura Robb is from Springfield, Missouri. Laura is in the Master of Accountancy program. She plans to sit for the CPA exam in late spring and hopes to graduate with her MAcc by the end of 2011. Laura will be working as an auditor for BKD upon graduation. She is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. In her spare time, Laura referees youth soccer and basketball at the YMCA and spends time with family and friends.

Updates on our returning graduate assistants:

Ashtyn Allison is graduating with her MBA with a concentration in Finance this December. She is currently working an internship at Scrottrade, Inc., in Springfield, but will begin a permanent position as an Associate Analyst specializing in the health care industry with Edward Jones in St. Louis upon graduation. Ashtyn will be busy next year, as she plans to sit for the CFA Level I exam and get married next summer.



Ashley Bishop will graduate in May 2011 with a Masters in Accounting. She will be doing an internship at BKD here in Springfield during the spring, and will start full time with them in summer 2011. Right now Ashley is busy studying for the CPA exam and planning her own wedding, scheduled for May 2011.

Matthew Parker completed his second term with the FDIC this past summer as an intern bank examiner. He considers the FDIC to be an interesting career path and has recently accepted a full-time position with the FDIC to be started upon his graduation this December. Until then, Matthew hopes to enjoy his last few months as a student, while spending time outdoors and watching football this fall.

Daniel Walker is graduating in December with his MBA with an emphasis in Finance. He is currently looking for a full-time position, preferably in the field of corporate finance, in St. Louis to start following graduation.