

Earn an MBA degree without making great sacrifices

Experienced professionals in south Louisiana will soon have a new option to advance their careers. Starting in March 2007, they will be able to earn a Master of Business Administration degree in just 17 months.

The College of Business has decided to introduce a new program to meet the competitive challenges of the new marketplace with the aim directed specifically at working professionals, the most desirable of all MBA student market segments.

The new Executive MBA program at Nicholls will be offered in a “hybrid” model mixing online course work with face-to-face instruction in classes that will meet every other Saturday for eight hours. Class size will be approximately

16 students, and classes will begin March 3, 2007, and finish four semesters later in 17 months.

In recent years, competition for MBA students has become particularly intense, and the landscape of program offerings has changed dramatically. Programs with flexible and convenient delivery methods are growing considerably, rendering traditionally delivered programs, especially those at regional universities, especially vulnerable.

Dr. Chris Cox, assistant dean for graduate programs and special projects, said the new degree program will be offered as an alternative to the existing MBA program, and course requirements will be the same.

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MBA students engage in a small group discussion on business strategy.

Nicholls tops CPA exam pass rates

The National Association of State Boards of Accounting released a report for 2005 showing that Nicholls accounting graduates passed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination at a rate higher than the average of all Louisiana university graduates. Remarkably, Nicholls graduates had the highest pass rate in the state in two of the exam's four sections while coming in second for the other two sections.

The statistics for the CPA pass rates prove the outstanding performance by Nicholls students. Nicholls graduates attained a pass rate of 30 percent on the Financial section, compared to the state average of 28.9 percent; 50 percent on the Auditing section, compared to 43 percent by other Louisiana graduates; 57.1 percent on the Regulations section, compared to the state average of 49 percent; and 30 percent on the Business section, compared to the 28.9 percent state average. Nicholls accounting graduates took top honors in the state in the Financial and Regulations sections.

Dr. Michael Chiasson, head of the Department of Accounting and Information Systems, attributes the success of Nicholls accounting graduates to an effort by faculty and students together to reach and uphold a high level of ability and professionalism. “The fact that our graduates have the highest pass rate in the state in two of the four parts, second only to Tulane in the other two sections, is testimony to the quality of education offered here at Nicholls in the College of Business Administration,” Chiasson said.

New faces in the college

The College of Business welcomed two new faculty members for the fall semester. Dr. Jim Cater and Dr. En Mao are both eager to bring bright ideas and a positive attitude to Nicholls.

Dr. Jim Cater comes to Nicholls as assistant professor of management fresh out of a doctoral program at LSU, where his dissertation concerned the leadership styles of successors in family businesses. He said, "My research interest stems from my background in our own family business." His family owned a furniture business stemming back to 1925. Cater earned a B.S. in Business Administration and an MBA both from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. He now lives in Houma with his wife and three daughters.



Cater

Dr. En Mao joins the Department of Accounting and Information Systems after teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee since 2000. She earned a B.S. in Computer Information Systems from Southern Arkansas University, an MBA from Arkansas State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Memphis. Mao is a published professor whose research interests include information technology diffusion and acceptance, end-user behavior and cross-cultural issues. When asked why she chose to come to Thibodaux, Mao responded, "People and warmer weather are the main reasons I came to Nicholls."



Mao

EMBA, from page 1

"Many professionals in business, health care, engineering and other fields are very interested in gaining a stronger business background, and this EMBA program will fulfill that need," he said. "We've designed a flexible, convenient program specifically aimed at working professionals."

Admission requirements for the new program will be similar to those for the current program, with the addition of three or more years of successful professional and/or entrepreneurial experience.

The EMBA program will be taught in a newly remodeled executive style classroom in the Theodore L. "Teddy" Duhe Building in Houma next to the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center in order to expand Nicholls' presence around that market and offer convenient access to a larger professional base.

For non-business majors, intensive two-week "quick-start" courses will provide the foundation required prior to each graduate course. These courses will be delivered one at a time in consecutive seven-week terms. Those students who start the curriculum together will continue together for the remainder of the 17-month program. "It adds a lot of flavor to have such a diverse class," Cox said. "The students will become professional peers and will be able to learn from each other's experiences."

The cost for an EMBA is \$21,000 which includes all fees, books, lunches, graduation fees such as cap and gown and other expenses. Payment will be made in three installments at the beginning of January, July and the following January.

There is a \$500 deposit due Jan. 1 which is part of the first installment payment. Visit the new EMBA Web site at www.nicholls.edu/emba for more information. Also, please visit the College of Business Web site for any future changes to the traditional MBA program.

Retired Nicholls accounting professor recognized



Stroud

J.B. Stroud, retired professor of accounting, was selected to receive the Society of Louisiana CPAs Lifetime Achievement Award for his noteworthy contributions to the CPA profession. The award recognizes full-time accounting educators whose professional contributions deserve commendation. Stroud was honored for his outstanding

classroom involvement, participation in scholarly research and contribution to professional organizations. Once again, we have a success story worth recognizing from the Nicholls College of Business.

Greetings from Dean Shawn Mauldin

What a difference a year can make. Last year at this time we were simply trying to recover from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This year we are well on our way to recovery and focusing on the initiatives set forth in our new strategic plan - specifically enhancing resources in the College of Business.

This year we are embarking on a fund-raising campaign in the College of Business. Our goal is to build an endowment that will support activities that are necessary to move the college forward. We are contacting the college's 6500+ alumni and asking for their financial support. In addition, we will be sponsoring events throughout the region to showcase the college to our constituents and ask for their support. I am especially thankful for the donations from the college's Executive Advisory Board to get the campaign off the ground. Thus far, the board members have pledged \$100,000 to the endowment.

I want to ensure you that the faculty, staff and I are doing everything possible to make sure that the College of Business is a place of which you can be proud. However, if we are going to position this college as a destination of choice for students, we will need your help. I encourage you to get involved in your BA Alumni Association and support your college with financial contributions.

We are proud of the successes and accomplishments of our alumni. My hope is that you will support your college and make our vision of being recognized as a leader in business education a reality.



Shawn Mauldin
Dean

Message from the Alumni President

This has been a busy year for the BA Alumni Association. Engraved bricks and a new fountain were placed in the courtyard of the college. We are still taking brick orders. You can purchase an engraved brick for \$75 and leave your legacy with the college. Proceeds from brick sales will support future projects benefiting the College of Business Administration. An order form can be found at www.nicholls.edu/business.

For the first time ever, the homecoming social was held on campus in the Ponder Room and the adjoining courtyard. Our goal for this year's social was to bring alumni back to campus so everyone could see the progress that has been made. The social was a great success and well attended. We hope that you will join us next year.

Our main goal for the next year is to increase membership and support for the BA Alumni Association. A large number of Nicholls business alumni remain in the bayou region and there are so many wonderful things that are going on within our college. I challenge you to join us in support of the College of Business Administration by updating your contact information and by paying your membership dues of \$10. By keeping an accurate alumni database, we will be able to notify you of upcoming events such as the homecoming social each fall. By providing your support with fundraisers, such as the brick drive, and making your \$10 donation for membership, we will be able to continue our support of the college.

We are open to new ideas and new faces. Join us now in helping the College of Business Administration achieve its goals. Thank you.



Katina Samanie
President, BA Alumni Association

Professorships granted to faculty members

The College of Business Administration is proud to announce two newly acquired professorships in the departments of management and finance. Dr. Ken Chadwick, associate professor of management and department head of management and marketing, received the Peltier Foundation Endowed Professorship in Business Administration, while Dr. John Lajaunie, professor of finance, was granted the Clarence J. Riviere Endowed Professorship in Business Administration.



Chadwick

To create an endowed professorship, universities must raise 60 percent of the \$100,000 cost from private sources, which then makes them eligible to receive a 40 percent match from the Board of Regents Support

Fund. Funds generated from the endowment allow promising educators to conduct scholarly research and help offset the costs associated with research, faculty publications, library acquisitions, travel and supplies.

Professorships are awarded through a competitive process. Interested professors submit dossiers of their research and accomplishments along with plans for current and future projects which are reviewed and ranked by outside agents. The application process highlights the qualifications of these professors, and as Lajaunie remarked, “It is rewarding knowing that the review process is done by a source outside of the university.”



Lajaunie

Ex-WorldCom auditor featured speaker

This year’s JPMorgan Chase Management Excellence Series luncheon was held on Nov. 2 at Envie Restaurant in Thibodaux. The keynote speaker, Cynthia Cooper, was the former WorldCom auditor responsible for detecting and bringing WorldCom’s immense corporate fraud to light.

For unveiling the largest case of corporate fraud in history, Cooper was designated one of TIME magazine’s 2002 Persons of the Year. She was also the recipient of the 2003 Accounting Exemplar Award, which is awarded annually to an individual who has made notable contributions to professionalism and ethics in accounting practice and education. She was the first woman to receive this award.

Cooper travels the country speaking to professionals and students about the importance of ethics and morals in the workplace. She stresses the significance of teaching employees to stand up for what is right and to be courageous enough to report unethical behavior.

The series is held annually to bring together business and community leaders with faculty and students from the College of Business Administration to discuss current management issues and promote excellence in management. The support of JPMorgan Chase helps recruit nationally recognized professionals who can address key management topics and practices. The college encourages alumni, as well as other business owners and managers, to attend the JPMorgan Chase Excellence Series in the future.



Cooper

Kleen recognized as Educator of the Year

Dr. Betty Kleen, distinguished service professor of information systems and university director of graduate studies, was recognized as the Computer



Kleen

Educator of the Year in early October by the International Association for Computer Information Systems.

This award has been given annually since 1966. Kleen was nominated by a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin, and all nominations were reviewed by a formal selection committee.

The Computer Educator of the Year is the highest award given by the IACIS. Candidates show exceptional research and teaching skills, have made significant contributions to IS and IS education and enjoy a national or international reputation for their outstanding work throughout the IS community. Other recent recipients have included curriculum innovators, leaders in the field of artificial intelligence and IS management and publishers of learning materials that have significantly impacted the educational community.

The IACIS was formed in 1960 as the Society for Automation in Business Education. To reflect changes in the field of information technology and information systems, the organization became the International Association for Computer Information Systems in 1990. The main purpose of the organization is to promote the growth and development of knowledge and understanding of computer automation, including information systems, management sciences, computer

science and applied education technology. The IACIS includes membership from throughout the world.

Noted by the IACIS Executive Director during Kleen's introduction at the conference were her scholarship contributions, teaching, leadership and service at Nicholls, service to the community and leadership roles in several IT/IS organizations, namely The International Association for Information Management, the Association for Business Information Systems and as a past president of the IACIS.

When asked what this honor means to her, Kleen responded, "Many years ago I was a high school junior with aspirations of becoming a high school history teacher in Illinois. In reflecting

on my career and the special honor of the Educator of the Year Award, Dr. Seuss's children's book, 'Oh, the Places You'll Go,' came to my mind. My life has certainly taken a different direction than I could envision all those years ago. I am currently in my 28th year at Nicholls and in my 34th year of teaching in higher education. Over the years I have taught thousands of students, and I continue to give my best to teaching students, while recognizing the need to contribute to research in my field and to give back professionally and personally to academic organizations and my community. To be recognized by IACIS as Educator of the Year is truly a special honor I will treasure long after I retire."

Tradition of excellence continues

Since 2003, professors in the College of Business have been steadily awarded for their outstanding service to students with the Apple Award. The Division of Student Affairs honors outstanding faculty service to students with the annual Apple Awards program at the Faculty Institute. This award is given to recognize the role of faculty members with students outside the classroom, such as recruiting and mentoring students, advising student organizations, supporting student activities and helping shape the careers of students.

Dr. Kevin Chris Cox, professor of marketing and assistant dean for graduate programs and special projects; Dr. Rene Charles Viosca, assistant professor of marketing; and Dr. John Lajaunie, professor of finance (pictured on page 4), have each been presented with the Apple Award for contributing to the academic success of graduates. These professors were chosen by graduates as having played an important role in shaping and nurturing their careers as Nicholls students.

The honor is determined by surveys sent to all graduating seniors, and the award is given to the person who received the most citations in the past three semesters. Recipients of the Apple Award have shown that they are dedicated to contributing positively to individual students' educational experiences.



Cox



Viosca

Accounting majors meet the firms

The Iota Sigma chapter of Beta Alpha Psi national honor society hosted its “Meet the Firms” night on Nov. 1, 2006, at Fremin’s restaurant in Thibodaux. The event featured guest presenter Grady Hazell, director of the Society of Louisiana CPAs, a non-profit professional association of certified public accountants in Louisiana.

The purpose of this event was to allow students to interact with area firms in a professional setting. Participating students rotated around tables sponsored by contributing companies at timed intervals to meet potential employers, exchange business cards and resumes for future contact and get a feel for the interview process.

Undergraduates were matched up with prospective employers, primarily members of the South Central Chapter of Louisiana CPAs, and spent five minutes with each interviewer. Michele

Guidry, instructor of accounting and faculty adviser of Beta Alpha Psi, said this event “is speed job interviewing” for students. To conclude the event, participants were treated to a buffet dinner.

Firms attending this year’s event included Bourgeois & Bennett LLC, Beyer, Stagni, & Co. CPA, Edward Jones, Charles Therriot CPA, Michael Bergeron CPA, Marine Systems, Terrebonne General Medical Center, Lorelei Walker CPA, Pitts & Matte CPA, Lanaux & Felger CPA and Kelton & Co. CPA. Robert Kelton of Kelton & Co. said, “We like to participate in these types of events because it gives us a chance to meet the fresh faces coming out of the Nicholls accounting program, and we realize how important it is for the students to have a chance to meet us too. These students are the future of our local accounting practices.”

This year’s “Meet the Firms” night was cosponsored by the South Central Chapter of CPAs and Beta Alpha Psi. Beta Alpha Psi recognizes outstanding academic achievement in the field of accounting, provides opportunities for self-development and association among members and practicing accountants and encourages a sense of ethical, social and public responsibilities. In addition to this recent event, Beta Alpha Psi members also participate in student nights sponsored by the American Society of Women Accountants and the Association of Governmental Accountants.

Mauldin elected president of LCPA South Central Chapter

Dr. Shawn Mauldin, dean of the College of Business, was recently elected president of the South Central Chapter of the Society of Louisiana CPAs for 2006-07. He will serve a one-year term along with the other newly installed officers, all Nicholls accounting graduates. Mauldin said, “I am very pleased to accept this position as president of our local LCPA chapter, and I am even more excited that each of our officers is also an accounting graduate of Nicholls.”

Mark Felger, CPA, a 1990 accounting graduate, will be the South Central LCPA president after Mauldin due to his appointment as president-elect this term. Matthew Bernard, CPA, was installed as secretary. He received his degree in 1992. The new chapter treasurer is Steve Pontiff, CPA, a 1990 graduate. Bryce Ledet, CPA, a 1997 graduate, was appointed board member-at-large. The organization’s past president, Jodie Bourgeois Arceneaux, CPA, is a 1993 Nicholls accounting graduate.

The LCPA is a non-profit professional association with more than 6,600 members statewide that works with CPAs in public practice, industry, government, and education. The LCPA is dedicated to unifying CPAs under a high standard of ethics and professionalism.



The fountain pictured is a gift from the BA Alumni Association to the College of Business. It was unveiled at the Homecoming social and sits in the courtyard between Powell and White halls. Surrounding the fountain are personalized bricks which helped to fund this project and beautify the campus.

Tell us how you are doing!

Help us keep up with what College of Business Administration alumni are doing by filling out this form and returning it to the address below. We'll use the information in the upcoming Inside *The College of Business Administration* newsletter. You can also visit the website at www.nicholls.edu/business and update us using the link provided.

Please print or type:

Name _____

Address _____

Degree/Year graduated _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Employer _____ Job Title: _____

Your news: _____

Clip form and return to: Alumni News, P.O. Box 2015, 106 White Hall, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA 70310.

Where are they now...

We asked you to tell us how you are doing, and here are some responses from your fellow alumni:

Angela K. Anderson- Finance, 1995; Cypress Bayou Casino, Poker Supervisor; Franklin, La.

Michael C. Fakier- Accounting, 1975; Southland Steel, CFO/Co-Owner; Board of Commissioners at Terrebonne General Medical Center, Chairman; Houma, La.

Gerrod Galliano- Business Administration, 2005; Louisiana Worker's Compensation Corporation, Claims Adjuster; Baton Rouge, La.

Nathan Lepine- Business Administration, 2004; Louisiana Worker's Compensation Corporation, Claims Adjuster; Baton Rouge, La.

Elaine Singleton-Skinner- Business Administration, 1980 and 1986; Delmar Systems Inc., Claims/Benefits Manager; Broussard, La.

Catherine Straatmann Menes- MBA, 2004; Portfolio Center, Admissions and Recruiting; Atlanta, Ga.

Richard Watkins- Marketing, 1980; Cellular One, CEO; Pinetop, Ariz.

Paul Wernich- Business Administration, 1995; Wernich Properties, Owner; Schriever, La.

Please visit the newly updated
College of Business website at
www.nicholls.edu/business
for important updates and events.
There is a link to the BA Alumni
Association page.

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

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