

# The Global Pulse



January, 2009

## Editor in Chief and Graphic Designer:

Cristin L. O'Brien

## Other Stories in this Issue:

- Student Leaving a Legacy* p. 2  
*Travel Abroad Programs Expand* p. 3  
*Business Research in the Library* p. 4

## Paratrooper to Professor

By Cristin L. O'Brien

Dr. Patti Collett joined the Maine Business School faculty in the fall of 2008, bringing with her practical skill and an academic understanding of operations and strategic management. While a new Ph.D. and Professor at UMaine; Dr. Collett is not new to the University setting or operations. She has been teaching at the college level for more than ten years and has worked in various logistics and manufacturing positions since 1983. She has previously taught courses in operations management,

business policy, organizational behavior and business math at four separate institutions: Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Richmond, University of North Texas, and University of Texas at Arlington. She is also a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel who served 25 years as a Quartermaster officer. During this time she worked primarily resupply and logistics; spending time in the 82nd Airborne Division as aerial supply platoon leader in the "Rigger Company" then commanding two forward support supply companies in the 2nd Armor Division. Most recently she was the Deputy Commander for the 1<sup>st</sup> Training Brigade.

### How is being in Maine different from your prior experiences?

*I love the town and the climate - I feel like I won the lottery! I have a short commute and ride my bike to work (when it is not below zero). The small town gives my children both independence and opportunity. They can easily get around town, and try out sports, and arts. My daughter can enjoy theatre, choir, and sports; while my sons can swim, play basketball, and learn new winter sports like cross country skiing and snowboarding. That would have been almost impossible in Texas where sports are* continued on page 3...



Dr. Patti Collett with her four children when receiving her Ph.D in 2008.

## Graduate Business Students Reconnect with Local Alumni

By Rachel Ferrigan

This year's homecoming football game marked a first for the Graduate Business Association (GBA). In an attempt to bridge the gap between graduate alumni of the Maine Business School (MBS) and current graduate students, the GBA planned and hosted a brunch / tailgating event for the October 25th game. The morning started out with casual conversation over coffee and brunch, where alumni caught up on all of the changes, improvements and opportunities the business department has embarked on over the years. After mingling between alumni, current faculty and students, everyone moved to a designated parking lot near the football field for an old-fashioned tailgate barbeque with all the extras. continued on page 4...





## Leaving a Legacy

By *Cristin L. O'Brien*

“I want to go back to Florida,” is a phrase Christine Clark says frequently. It is noteworthy that she dislikes the cold and craves warmer weather - she grew up in Saco, Maine. Christine has spent most of her life in Maine, and she started at UMaine as a computer engineering student. Recognizing early on that she wanted more from her future than to work at a desk and do one job, that she wanted responsibility and the ability to make a difference, she switched to the Maine Business School (MBS) in her second year. It was in her junior year she got her first taste of that Florida weather while attending the Disney college program.

After graduating with her BS degree, Christine used her contacts from the college program to return to Disney for an internship, working in labor relations and process improvement. She was then hired as a temp for several positions while waiting for something full-time to open up. “[After six months] there wasn’t something open for me and I didn’t want to blindly search for something, so I came back to grad school for an MBA. I was a peer mentor my junior and senior undergraduate years for first year business majors, so I had worked with Dean Innis and Richard Grant. Through those contacts I asked about scholarships and applied for my current GA position.”

Within the MBS, Christine is working hard to leave her mark. Not only a student with a perfect 4.0, she is the driving force behind the newly re-formed Graduate Business Association (GBA) who wrote the constitution, organized meetings and has been a wellspring of ideas, providing direction and ambitious undertakings for the coming semesters. Christine recognizes the gap between the university and local business community and in an effort to help bring the two together, has proposed a conference targeted to local business people, to be organized and hosted by students of the Maine Business School. Discussions for a fall conference are underway and GBA members have already met with several active community members for ideas and direction.

“I want people to remember that a student had a lasting impact on the school. I want to leave the program better than when I got here. And I believe that when you see a weakness in a person or institution, you should do your best to turn it into a strength.”

Reflecting on her experiences at school and Disney, Christine’s advice to graduating students is to always be professional and courteous. “One thing I definitely have learned is not to burn your bridges. Disney is sometimes referred to as the smallest big company in the world because you often end up working with someone that you never thought you’d see again. Beware of the impressions you leave, the person who is your peer now could be your boss – or you could end up being your boss’s boss.”

Christine will be graduating this May and has started searching for apartments in Florida. The MBS will miss her, but not forget her.

Christine will be graduating this May and has started searching for apartments in Florida. The MBS will miss her, but not forget her.

**Lunch at the University Club**  
*Seated: Professors Chung and Rieg from the Univ. of Aalen*  
*Standing: Christine Clark, Nick Nadeau, Brenton Murray, Cristin O'Brien, and Stefan Borst*  
story on page 3...



# Expanded Partnership with Universities in Germany and France

By Stefan Borst

Starting in the fall of 2008, graduate students from the Maine Business School (MBS) have the opportunity to study abroad in Germany for a semester and earn up to 15 credits hours. A student exchange agreement between the University of Maine and the University of Aalen (Germany) has been in place since 2003, but was only for undergraduate students.

In 2007, the University of Aalen introduced a new program, a Masters in International Business. The MBS recognized this great opportunity and expanded the existing partnership for exchange to include the graduate level. Professor Chung and Professor Rieg, both faculty of University of Aalen, visited Orono this past November for the revision of the student exchange agreement. This was a wonderful opportunity for graduate students interested in spending a semester at Aalen to meet the professors and ask questions.

Nick Nadeau, newly elected President of the Graduate Business Association (GBA), says he has always considered studying abroad to be the best way to gain global perspective. "In today's business climate, a global view is necessary to most organizations, large and small. Studying abroad will allow me to broaden my horizons and establish international relationships with future business leaders while simultaneously learning the cultural traditions and practices of other countries."

Brenton Murray is also considering a semester at a partnering institution. "With the internet allowing people anywhere in the world to communicate and conduct business, it is becoming more and more important to think on a worldwide scale. I feel the best way to get ahead is to ensure that you are internationally competent before you graduate. At the Maine Business School we have the opportunity to conduct a portion of our studies overseas and gain this competency sooner rather than later."

Both of these exchanges feature courses taught in English, with significant exposure to the native language through social settings. In addition to International Business or SME Management courses taught at Aalen, graduate students also have the option of studying in Angers, France with courses relating to Human Resource Management and International Business Students.

*Professor continued from page 1...*

*extremely competitive and once a child (about 8 years old) picks a sport they really can't deviate from it. They also love the schools, where there are about 10 kids per class; and the teachers seem to love what they are teaching.*

**What life lessons from your experiences are most helpful to you now as an academic? (You were in the Army for 25 years, and in ROTC in college.)**

*I have three life lessons that I think are really applicable. The first one is from my golf coach, Mr. Moran (I spent a lot of my younger life playing golf). He emphasized that you should always practice what you're not good at – don't be lulled into sense of satisfaction with what you are good at. He taught me to work on the harder things, and this allowed me to cross hurdles in life. Always address what you're not good at.*

*In the Army I learned (from some great leaders) to lead from the front; by doing. Whatever I have my students do, I try to do them with them; I try to set an example. I like to inspire my students to appreciate learning through interesting lectures, real world examples and relevance. This is largely a result of my Army background, where getting people to believe in you is not optional.*

*And third, the Army taught me a person can do anything they set their mind to; Perseverance is critical. When I decided to switch Ph.D. programs (to get additional operations and statistics courses) – it caused me to delay finishing by one year; I thought many times about quitting; but the perseverance I learned in the Army never let me quit. I believe the Army gave me the wherewithal to push through the difficult times in my life; this is a precious gift, one I do not take lightly.*

**What do you do outside the classroom (family, hobbies, etc.)?**

*I love the outdoors; I enjoy running, hiking, exploring outside anywhere. I am learning to enjoy chopping wood, making those big Maine fires, and enjoying their warmth after cross country skiing, or sledding. I also love to cook, listen to music, walk on warm beaches, and sit by the fire and read a book. I spend most of my free time exploring Maine with my family: Grant, my four children (17, 16, 14, and 10), and our dog.*

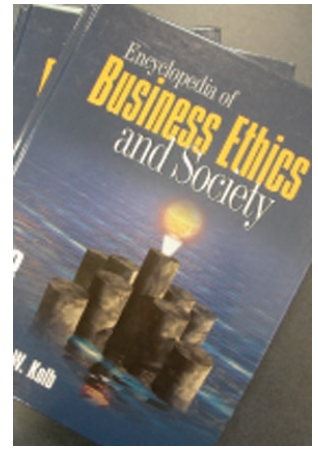
When asked what her favorite subject is as an instructor she replies without hesitation, "management and strategy, and the interface between the two." Dr. Collett volunteered to tackle the MBA capstone course this spring. Hoping to assist the local community in tandem with MBA candidates, Dr. Collett will be using a local business in the capstone course as a case study for students to examine and make business recommendations. "I'm hoping we can really make a difference."

# Business in the Library - a New Reference

By Stephen Fadel, Business Reference Librarian

Published in 2008, the five-volume print resource Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society covers over 900 topics related to ethics and business.

Volume one includes a complete alphabetical list of entry titles, starting with “AARP” and ending with “Zaibatsu.” To further help readers, the first volume also includes a Reader’s Guide, where entry headings are organized under 21 themes such as “Accounting,” “Customers and Consumers,” “Employee Issues,” and “Management.” Often, when I’m helping someone research a topic and I’m using a source like this, I will take a few minutes to scan the list of article titles to pinpoint useful entries. Users can also turn to the index located in the back of volume five (main entries are in bold type).



Article length varies from 500 to 11,000 words and each article is signed by one of 300 mostly U.S. academic contributors. Included are four articles by Dean John Mahon. A list of further readings ends each article.

One example of an article, “Triple Bottom Line,” is a 4 ½-page essay that outlines the three elements of the triple bottom line – economic prosperity, environmental quality, and social justice. The article then proceeds to review “Triple-Bottom-Line Reporting,” “Critiques,” and “Motivations.” See Also references point users to 19 other related entries (e.g., “Social Audits,” “Corporate Social Financial Performance”). The concluding list of Further Readings provides 11 references including books, journal articles, and websites. Other examples of article titles include “Cartels,” “Dow Corning,” “Glass Ceiling,” “Moral Hazard,” “Herbert Spencer,” and “Workplace Privacy.”

The Appendix in the fifth volume includes a descriptive compilation of academic and trade journals, research databases, and other resources suitable for business ethics research.

This encyclopedia updates and greatly expands on the single-volume Business Ethics: A Reference Handbook (1998, ABC-CLIO, REF HF5387.D54). The Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society is available in the Business Reference section of Fogler Library, call number REF HF5387.E53 2008.

*Students and faculty seeking business related research assistance can contact Mr. Fadel on First Class at [stephen.fadel@umit.maine.edu](mailto:stephen.fadel@umit.maine.edu) or by calling 581-3610. Mr. Fadel also maintains a help desk in the lobby of DPC every Wednesday and Thursday, from 11am to noon.*



## *Alumni continued from page 1...*

People who attended the event also brought their families with them to enjoy the experience. Everyone was able to catch up on lost times over hamburgers and hotdogs, and there was even a visit from UMaine’s own Stephen King.

The tailgate party hosted around 80 people, and the MBS was able to reconnect with alumni who have benefited from the wonderful opportunities the University of Maine business program has to offer. After such a triumphant outcome, the GBA plans to make this an annual event for everyone to look forward to.

*Dean Mahon speaks with several alumni in the lobby of DPC.*