We are excited to welcome our new students this year. I hope you had a great summer and also had an opportunity to participate in our new student orientation. There are new happenings throughout the College. For the first time we are offering the Introduction to Business course (BA 1000) to freshmen and sophomores so they can explore career options in business. In addition, we now offer Internet Marketing (MKTG 3721) and Entrepreneurship in the Global Business Environment (INTBUS 4281). Finally, we have great news for those living in west county. We are planning on offering a degree completion program at our Wildwood campus starting in Fall 2011.

I encourage all students to explore our student organizations this fall. Business fraternities and honorary societies help round out your educational experience and give you an opportunity to meet others with similar interests. Some of these organizations include the Marketing Club, Beta Gamma Sigma, Delta Sigma Pi, the Accounting Club, IS Mentoring Club, and International Business Club.

Please consider visiting the undergraduate business office to get more information about these opportunities and discuss your career goals. I really hope you have an exceptional semester here at the UMSL College of Business Administration.

Meet your advisor - Donna Procter

1. Tell us about your academic background and how you got into academic advising?

In college, I earned a B.A. in Spanish, with a French and Art History minor, at the same time obtaining a lifetime teaching certificate for secondary education. I began as a work-study coordinator, subsequently taking on the role of Financial Aid Advisor. I became the Director of Financial Aid at another institution. I then returned to UMSL as an academic adviser in the College of Business. I have continued to work with students at UMSL for over 25 years, and believe that advising students has proven to be my purpose.
2. What do students need to be successful at UMSL?
The most important key to success at UMSL is a dedication and desire to pursue knowledge. While class attendance and diligent studying are necessary to this success, it’s also important to balance your education by networking and getting involved in the clubs and organizations on campus. Beyond that, a student should take advantage of the many resources available to students to assist them. Some of these include the many Department labs, career services, and of course the academic advisors. Speaking as an advisor, I believe a student really needs to understand their degree plan; knowing the required courses and the order in which to take them greatly aids students to successfully completing their degree.

3. Do you help the students with the career guidance?
Not everyone knows right away what degree they should pursue. If a student is unsure what they want to major in for a career, I work with each student to describe the different areas of business to give them a better understanding of their options. I often suggest contacting career services and considering an internship in an area of business in which they may be interested. While they are deciding, I also will develop a degree plan that provides them the foundation for their ultimate career choice.

4. What do you want students to remember when they think about academic advising?
I want students to think of academic advisors as being the first person available to answer any questions they may have about their educational goals. I also want students to know that I’m not only here to help them understand their degree plan but to help resolve any other concerns they may have. When a student is confused or needs help, I want them to know that they can come to an academic advisor for guidance.

5. What is the most important advice you have (in a general sense) for students?
Be prepared for your future, gain as much knowledge as you can and always challenge yourself. Don’t limit this knowledge only to your degree; have a broad background in a variety of interests. Have the ability to be able to carry on conversations on any subject, even if you only know a little bit about it. Always make a good first impression; that first meeting can either carry you far or stop you in your tracks. Be well-rounded, stay active, and have a sense of humor. And lastly, in today’s world, never say or write anything about yourself that you don’t want everyone to know; you never know who is reading it.

Get Involved!
There are many ways to get involved in campus activities. Following are some organizations for business students. For more information you may contact the advisor of each organization.

Accounting Club: The Accounting Club is open to all students who wish to be involved with campus activities. This is a great organization for all students, particularly anyone considering a career in the accounting profession. For more information: http://www.umsl.edu/~accclub/About.html
Advisor: Leslie Vaughan
Email: vaughanle@umsl.edu

Alpha Mu Alpha: Alpha Mu Alpha is the international marketing honorary for qualified undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral marketing students and marketing faculty. Advisors nominate students that meet eligibility requirements. For more information: http://business.umsl.edu/soc_org/alphamualpha.htm
Advisor: Lindell Chew
Email: LPC1@umsl.edu
Get Involved cont...

AIESEC: AIESEC is the world’s largest student organization. AIESEC is a global network of 32,000 students across more than 100 countries and territories at more than 1100 universities worldwide. For more information: http://www.umsl.edu/~aiesec/ Contact: Michael Heath Email: aiesecstlouis@gmail.com

American Marketing Association: The AMA is the world’s largest and most comprehensive professional association of marketers. Our UMSL AMA Student Chapter offers the student a myriad of networking benefits in helping you to meet new challenges. For more information: http://business.umsl.edu/soc_org/ama.htm Advisor: Lindell Chew Email: LPC1@umsl.edu

Beta Alpha Psi: Beta Alpha Psi is a national scholastic and professional fraternity for Financial Information students and professionals. For more information: http://www.umsl.edu/~betaalphapsi/index.html Advisor: Leslie Vaughan Email: vaughanle@umsl.edu

Financial Management Association: The Financial Management Association International-National Honor Society (FMA-NHS) is an international organization that was founded in the mid-1960’s. Originally, the purpose of the organization was to bring together domestic finance professors and practitioners to share research and ideas. For more information: http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/business/finance/fma.html Advisor: G. D’Anne Hancock Email: dhancock@umsl.edu

International Business Club: The International Business Club (IB Club) seeks to provide a forum for students interested in international business to socialize with each other, and to network with professionals working in international business. This is a social club free and open to all students. For more information: http://www.umsl.edu/~ibclub/ Advisor: Betty Vinning Email: ibinstitute@umsl.edu

Information Systems Programming Club: The purpose of the UM-St. Louis Information Systems Programming Club (ISPC) is to give students at UM-St. Louis real world examples of how programming is being applied in business applications, and to encourage and foster further understanding and knowledge of programming principles and techniques. For more information: http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/misclub/ Advisor: Dinesh Mirchandani Email: mirchandanid@msx.umsl.edu

IS Mentoring Club: The goal of this organization is to provide a value-added service to the IS graduate and undergraduate students at UMSL by extending their professional network to include MIS practitioners. For more information: http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/business/mis/mentor/member/ Advisor: Joseph Rottman Email: rottman@umsl.edu

Student Investment Trust: The purpose of this organization is to provide students an opportunity to hear a variety of speakers on many subjects related to investing and finance as well as the chance to get hands on investment experience. For more information: http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/sit/ataglance.htm Advisor: Kenneth Locke Email: kwlocke@umsl.edu