Greetings! As Chair of the Department of Management, I am very pleased to introduce this inaugural edition of the Department of Management’s student newsletter. You probably have noticed in recent years that the Walton College has experienced strong enrollment growth and centralization of many student services (for example, advising). Although these are great trends, one side effect is that students may become disconnected from their home departments. The purpose of this newsletter is to bring more information about your home department (Management) to you in an easily accessible way.

We will be sending this electronic newsletter to you once per semester. Inside you will find current information about classes and scheduling, about internships, student clubs, and extra-curricular activities that are of special interest to Management majors. We’ll also give you a chance to learn some interesting details about Management Department faculty through our faculty profile section. The information in the newsletter will assist you as you move through your program of study, and hopefully will also enhance the quality of experience you have along the way!

I hope that you will take a few minutes to read the newsletter as it arrives in your Inbox every semester. I promise that it will save you time, because the news you need will be front and center. You will learn something about the great people in your Management Department. And I promise that the faculty and staff in the Department will do our best to provide you with a high quality educational experience here in the Walton College of Business.

Have a great summer, and we’ll see you next fall.

Anne O’Leary-Kelly
Department of Management

Habitat for Humanity CEO speaks

Jonathon Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity, spoke to students, faculty, staff about the concept of Authentic Servant Leadership on April 27 to a full house in the Reynolds Center Auditorium.

In the first part of his talk, he gave an overview of the Habitat for Humanity organization and its objectives. On Aug. 4, 2005, Reckford was unanimously elected CEO of the organization. He said that people in the world are all one family, they should grow up safe, and everyone should be able to connect with people of all types. Habitat partners with families to help them get affordable housing. The organization, which is in 100 countries and serves 25,000 families, has been described as a “perpetual motion miracle.”

He talked about his career, which has ranged from Wall Street to a church ministry. He gained a global view by living, traveling and doing mission work internationally. All of the different opportunities eventually led him to a growing sense of personal calling to start working on something more mission-related and take what he learned in the business world and apply it to the not-for-profit world. Reckford holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Business Administration from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

“I encourage you to be ‘wholly discontented,’” Reckford challenged the students. “This means that if you see something you can’t stand to see, you should try and fix it. I also hope you will find mentors, especially ethical and moral people, to follow and keep in touch with.” He added, “Authentic Servant Leadership is hard work. You have to constantly balance the pressures of life.”
Martina Genfors

Martina Genfors, age 22, is currently a junior management major at the University of Arkansas. She was born in Linkoping, Sweden. She attended Berga Skola high school and currently calls Jonkoping, Sweden, her home. Her oldest sister sells designer purses, her other older sister works in the restoration of damaged paintings, and her youngest sister is studying to be a translator.

Her favorite class at the Walton College was Ethics, taught by Joanna Newman. She enjoyed the class because it was unusual, and it helped to teach her how to do things in an ethical way. She isn’t exactly sure what she plans to do after graduation, but she wouldn’t mind staying in America for grad school. She is fairly fluent in Japanese and moving to Japan after graduation is something she’s also considering.

If Martina could do anything in the world to earn a living, she would teach kickboxing or yoga. She would especially appreciate the opportunity to champion the benefits of exercise to the business world. If she could be world-class “awesome” at one thing, she would choose relationship management.

As a freshman, some of her most embarrassing moments came when she mistakenly said “hi” to strangers, mistaking them for people she actually did know. She says the coolest thing that’s ever happened to her was getting a job as an insurance agent when she was not the most qualified applicant.

Ryan Thornton

Ryan Thornton, age 31, is currently a senior organizational leadership major. He was born in Alexandria, Virginia. He attended high school in Fayetteville and currently calls Fayetteville his home. He has a wife, a seven month old child, and brothers and sisters spread across the United States.

Ryan’s favorite class in the Walton College was Ethics, taught by Jon Johnson. He enjoyed the class because he felt its concepts were extremely important and he enjoyed learning how corporations can be good community patrons. He is currently working for a developer in Fayetteville, and hopes to stay with the company after graduation. He is not entirely certain what he plans to do long term; however, he would enjoy working in the realm of federal law enforcement as an FBI agent.

If Ryan could do anything in the world to earn a living, he would rent jet skis and surfboards on an exotic beach like Hawaii. If he could be world-class “awesome” at one thing, it would be the ability to effectively articulate himself.

As a freshman, his most terrifying moment came when he delivered the first speech for his introductory communications class. He says the coolest thing that’s ever happened to him was the opportunity to live in Mexico for two years. While there, he was able to get to know the people on a much different level than here in America. He especially appreciated how completely different the Mexican culture is from ours. One of the best vacations he’s ever had was when he got to go Destin, Fla. with friends. The vacation was marked by relaxing and “doing nothing.”

If Ryan had the choice between either being able to read people’s minds or being able to fly like Superman, he would choose the ability to fly, because she doesn’t want to know what others might really be thinking about her. If she won the Powerball lottery, she would buy lots of land in place like Hawaii, where she would build houses for all her friends and family.

Favorite book: American Psycho by Bret Eaton
Favorite website: www.shoprobertson.com
Favorite show as a kid: Winnie the Pooh
Favorite hobby: Yoga
Martina is: Happy
Passionate about: Family
Loves: to play Nintendo Super Mario 1, 2, 3

Favorite book: As a Man Thinketh by James Allen
Favorite website: www.cnet.com
Favorite movie: Les Miserables
Favorite shows as a kid: The A-Team, MacGyver
Passionate about: Family
On February 24, 2006, Anne O’Leary-Kelly, Chair of the Management Department, announced the 2005-2006 Outstanding Management Students of the Years. This year three students were selected; Callan E. Cornett of Fayetteville, Matt Schilb of North Little Rock, and Kelly M. Keyes of Springdale.

Callan Cornett is a Magna Cum Laude Administrative Management student who graduated in December of 2005. As a Chancellor’s Scholar and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Callan has been named to the Chancellor’s and Dean’s Lists. He is the recipient of the Pat & Gus Blass Endowed Scholarship and the Arkansas Co-op in Business Scholarship. While at the Walton College, Callan was a member of SIFE, served as volunteer for the Center for Retailing Excellence, and as a mentor for SPRANS (Special Projects of Regional and National Significance). He has worked as a sales analyst intern at Unilever HPC in Rogers, as well as a counselor at New Life Ranch in Colcord, Okla., and as an advertising/business manager at the Register, the Fayetteville High School newspaper in Fayetteville.

Matt Schilb has had a variety of interesting jobs: a hospitality intern at Walt Disney World Company, a supervisor at Wild River Country, a summer department management intern, and a supervisor of intramural recreational sports officials. After this May he will looking for a job that uses his Administrative Management degree. His 3.97 GPA won’t hurt his chances. Matt has been a recipient of a number of prestigious scholarships and fellowships during his stay at the University of Arkansas, including Chancellor’s Scholarship, the Sam. M.Walton College of Business – Walton Fellowship, the J. C. & Wiley G. McDonald III Endowed Scholarship in Management, and the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Matt is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the National Dean’s List, and the National Association of Collegiate Scholars. He is a weekly volunteer at Seven Hills Homeless Center and has served as a mentor in the Walton College.

Kelly M. (Cooper) Keyes is a newly wed who will be graduating in May. Kelly is majoring in Administrative Management with a minor in finance – real estate and insurance. With a cumulative GPA of 3.81, Kelly has been named to the Chancellor’s List at the University of Arkansas and the Dean’s List for the Walton College. She was also a four-year recipient of the Chancellor’s Academic Scholarship. During her tenure at the University of Arkansas, Kelly has participated as a volunteer for Fayetteville Park Clean-Up, Valentines for Vets, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Northwest Arkansas, Silver Wings, and the Northwest Arkansas Veteran’s Day Celebration.

Kelly runs an errand business for local businesses.
The 2006 Governor’s Cup awards luncheon was held Wednesday, April 12, at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Walton College students in the graduate program took the first-place $20,000, second-place $10,000 and third-place $5,000 awards. The second-place team also won the $5,000 graduate Acxiom Graduate Technology Award.

A total of $104,000 was awarded in this year’s competition. Sixty-one student teams entered the competition in February. Six undergraduate and six graduate teams, along with four technology teams, were selected as finalists.

The winning team, Agrobotics, will produce innovative precision agriculture equipment, with the vision to increase crop yield while simplifying farming.

Graduate students Alin Dragos, Adi Masli and Jason McNabb created the winning plan. The second-place graduate team, Amiga LLC, will be a software development and consulting company that will focus on enabling faster, easier access to information with the use of databases. Amiga will provide a software package that will optimize data querying and improve efficiency. The team includes graduate students Tanya Fette, Leah Morton and Angelo Welihina. Amiga also won the Acxiom Graduate Technology Award. The technology used by the team, called menu-based natural language interface, was developed by Craig Thompson, professor in the computer science and computer engineering department, UA College of Engineering. In addition, engineering senior Kyle Neumier assisted the team as its chief information officer.

The third-place team, Contür, will seek out specific categories with a void in creativity and introduce innovation. Contür’s first product, the Safe ‘n’ SnugTM Changing Station will transform the experience of diaper changing in a way that is comfortable for babies and easy for caregivers. Master’s degree students on this team include Sarah Garton, Paul McDaniel and Paul Sproles.

Undergraduate students interested in winning cash prizes of up to $20,000 should consider putting a team together for the Governor’s Cup Business Planning Competition in 2007. The Governor’s Cup is sponsored by Arkansas Capital Corporation. Teams from various colleges and universities throughout Arkansas develop business plans for hypothetical new companies that are evaluated by a team of successful business people from around the state. Those making it to the shortlist will present their plans in Little Rock in March of 2007.

According to Walton College Entrepreneurship instructor Mark Zweig, “The strongest teams are those with a unique idea—a product or service that hasn’t been done before—and a multi-discipline team that includes students from engineering or science, ISYS, management, marketing, finance and accounting.” He added, “This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to get immediate feedback on their ideas and plans from a panel of high—level business people. It could be one of the most valuable learning opportunities our students get during their time here at the Walton College.”

Undergrad students interested in assembling a team for the Governor’s Cup in 2007 should contact Mark C. Zweig at mzweig@walton.uark.edu or drop into to see him in his office in Business Building 213.

Walton College students have placed the past 6 years in the Governor’s Cup Competition.

2006 Governor’s Cup Winners

2007 Governor’s Cup Competition
John Todd came to Fayetteville from Heber Springs, Ark., at the impressionable age of 17. Little did he know that the years between then and now would take him to Tulsa, Little Rock, Austin, Texas, Boston, and back to Fayetteville, where he would not only live the full life of a college professor working in the Department of Management at the Walton College of Business, but also be one of the City’s most noteworthy mayors!

People who know John will tell you that he has served his entire life as a role model for those who want to take control of their lives and pursue their dreams. An only child, John’s dad owned a small farm implement business and his mom worked part-time at a local store. But John knew he wanted more. Whether it was the beginning of his career in accounting as a CPA at Ernst and Young in 1961, working as an early pioneer in health care systems consulting in the mid-60s, or getting his DBA from Harvard during the turbulent times of the late 60s and early 70s, John has almost lived as many lives as the proverbial cat.

John discovered his love of teaching in 1967 a couple years after he earned his MBA from University of Texas at Austin. Because he had an “in” with several of the then-management faculty members there, John got an opportunity to teach management at Little Rock University (now The University of Arkansas at Little Rock). It was a natural for him, and he found it incredibly rewarding. That experience led him to believe he should get his doctoral degree. He applied and was accepted to the Harvard School of Business DBA program in 1969. According to John, he doesn’t even recall taking an admissions test. Professional experience was the primary factor, but, of course, he also had good grades. It was an interesting time, during which John lived in Cambridge, Waltham, Watertown, and Belmont—historic cities and towns in the Boston area.

When John was finishing up his work at Harvard in 1972, Bob Hay, UA Chair of the Management Department, came to Harvard looking for faculty. He talked John into visiting Fayetteville over a long weekend. When he got an offer to come back, it was an easy choice—a chance for him to come home. His heart was always here in Fayetteville. He was never seriously tempted to stay in New England—and he has been here ever since.

John Todd’s political career started when he ran for the Fayetteville City Board in 1974. He and Bill Clinton were campaigning in parallel—Clinton was running for Congress—and John recalls bumping into him several times on the campaign trail. John got on the City Board in 1975 and successfully ran for mayor in 1979-1980. He wanted to improve the quality of life for the people of Fayetteville. His foremost competitor in the mayoral race was Fayetteville developer and realtor Jim Lindsay. The issue of the day was primarily about development. John wanted growth—but controlled growth. He felt that it would be possible to take account of the general public’s interest as well as that of the business community—that the two could work together. During his term the City’s restrictive signage ordinance was challenged (and upheld). The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and was pivotal for all communities who wanted a say over out-of-control billboards. John also worked hard to bridge the gap between the University and the Fayetteville community at large. He succeeded. Today, the City of Fayetteville shows evidence that John accomplished what he set out to do. The quality of life and property values are among the highest in the state. The University and City work hand-in-hand, probably more so than any other college town anywhere else in the United States. All who live and work here today owe John a real debt of gratitude.

Though he is retiring from the Walton College at the end of this semester, John Todd looks like a man 20 years his junior. The fact that he is an avid runner and watches his diet hasn’t hurt. Nor has his genetic background—mom and dad are in Heber Springs, alive and well, 87 and 91 years young, respectively. John plans on using his time wisely—doing the reading that he hasn’t been able to do, traveling with his wife, Gerry, and playing a lot more golf. While all of us here in the Dept. of Management and the Walton College will miss him, we’re glad to know that John will still be here in Fayetteville for many years to come.

“When work is a pleasure, life is a joy! When work is a duty, life is slavery.”
Maxim, Gorky

author (1868-1936)

“In order to be irreplaceable one must always be different.”
Coco Chanel

“Without enough sleep, we all become tall two-year-olds.”
Jojo Jensen

“Dirt Farmer Wisdom”

Thought de jour: “None of us is as smart as all of us”
2006 SHRM OFFICERS

President: Emily Kilgore
Vice President: Eva Agrawat
Secretary: Michelle Miller
Treasurer: Ashley Jenkins
Recruitment and Retention: Christina Boone
Web Designer: Cindy Endris

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is a national organization committed to the advancing the Human Resource Profession. According to the SHRM website (www.shrm.org), student membership “offers students the opportunity to supplement their classroom education with real-world knowledge and hands-on experience.”

The Sam M. Walton College of Business’ student chapter HRMA (Human Resource Management Association), works as a subsidiary of SHRM to accomplish the following:

• Provide networking opportunities in the field of HR through guest speakers, involvement with our sponsoring chapter, and announcements of internships

• Provide a learning environment for students to broaden their knowledge in the areas of HR

• Create a working relationship with NOARK, our professional sponsoring chapter, and be involved with their meetings

• Participate in State SHRM Conferences

• Provide members with opportunities to visit area corporations in order to become familiar with the day-to-day workings of a business

• Provide service to the community, Department of Management, and the Walton College

Stay abreast of all of our activities via the web http://wcob.uark.edu/hrma, through the SHRM President at efkilgo@uark.edu, or at our bulletin boards on the 4th floor outside of the Management Department and on the 3rd floor outside of the Undergraduate Programs office.