COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

ANNUAL **NEWSLETTER**

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As Dean of the College of Business & Information Systems (BIS) I'm thrilled to celebrate another year of distinctive accomplishments. Our students, faculty, and alumni never cease to inspire me with their success.

I'm thrilled to share the success of our students, faculty, & alumni in this newsletter. Our dynamic programs truly prepare students for limitless career options upon graduation. While our core programs are all infused with technology, artificial intelligence (AI) continues to be top of the mind for us. We're excited to continue building the Artificial Intelligence in Organizations major. Students in the program are developing skills to apply AI tools and methods to a variety of industries, We are also looking forward to collaborating with other colleges on campus on upcoming interdisciplinary programs.

Dakota State continues to rise and I look forward to sharing more developments from the College of BIS in 2024.

AI IN ORGANIZATIONS

All of Dakota State's business programs are infused with technology such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, virtual reality, and more.

Students must pay attention to these disruptive technologies, and right now, AI is the most significant disruptive technology, said Dr. Deb Tech, associate professor in the College of Business & Information Systems.

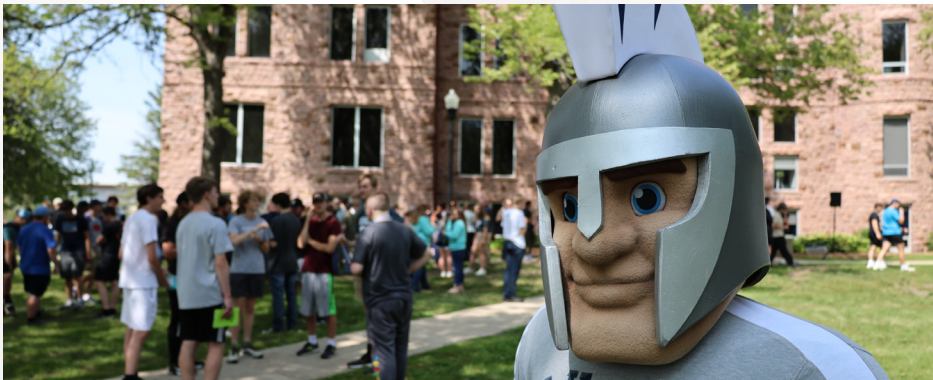Artificial intelligence and its applications can and are used to solve business problems already, according to Dr. David Zeng, assistant professor in the College of BIS and Director of the Center for Business Analytics Research.

While all BIS majors include AI, the Artificial Intelligence in Organizations degree prepares students to apply current and future AI tools on all areas of businesses and organizations. Graduates will be able to identify problems and offer solutions by utilizing AI tools.

"We're preparing our students to be adaptable to these new and evolving situations," Tech said. "AI and other technology are simply tools we can use."

Zeng recommends seeing AI as a resource to be used, not a replacement for positions. While AI may eventually cause some jobs to be eliminated, many jobs of the future have yet to be created.

Preparing students is about giving them the tools and skill set to manage changes and implement new technology in a positive and ethical way, Tech explained.

DR. DORINE BENNETT

DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

CAPITAL SERVICES

DSU College of BIS would like to highlight CAPITAL Services for their partnership. They have presented to student groups and classes on campus, are a part of the Trojan Scholar program, and sponsored the March 2023 Data Analytics Competition. CAPITAL Services is an innovative credit card portfolio management and servicing company that provides portfolio analytics, financial modeling, compliance, technology, and servicing for their clients.

AI WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS

The Association for Information Systems (AIS) student club organized a workshop this fall on artificial intelligence for fellow students. Attendees heard from Dr. David Zeng, Director of Center of Business Analytics Research, and Associate Professor in the College of BIS.

His presentation, "Embracing the Power of Generative AI for Upskilling," covered the rise of machine learning, an introduction into generative AI, AI as a skills leveler, a quick demo of a simple Large Language Model (LLM)-based web app, and a Q&A session.

AI mimics cognitive functions like learning and problem-solving, Zeng shared. That ability to learn makes it a transformative technology, with computer scientist and Coursera co-founder stating, "Artificial intelligence is the new electricity."

Zeng went on to talk about generative AI, where machines are taught to create content that could pass as human generated - such as ChatGPT, DALL-E 2, and even simple tools like predictive typing. Generative AI will continue to be an integral part of the workplace.

Zeng noted during the session that AI tools help high and low performing employees improve their efficacy and efficiency, increasing productivity and opening avenues for innovation and creativity.

AI technology will continue to evolve and the skill sets required to remain competitive in the workforce must evolve too. It is critical to use additional training to improve and expand employees abilities, which will ensure the workforce can use AI effectively and maintain a competitive edge.

"Generative AI is a powerful ally in the journey of continuous learning and skill development," Zeng said.

BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION

Entrepreneurs Day and the Business Plan Competition 2023 were moved online due to weather in March. The annual pitch competition, which includes a high school division and a college division, requires finalists to present elevator pitches. First place winners were awarded $1,000 each, second place $500, and third place $250.
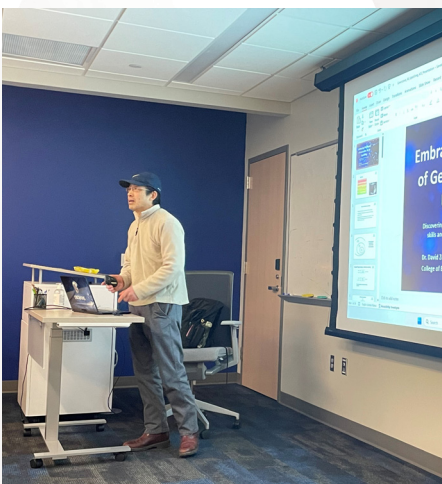
- ◆ First place - Dominic Jones of Florence High School for DJ Enterprises.

- ◆ Second place - Chloie Stevens of Marshall High School for Raine.

- ◆ Third place - A tie between Tabitha Choate of Brandon Valley High School for Creare Cones and Clayton Trupe of Florence High School for Wicked Washing.

- ◆ First place - Bharathkiran Maddipudi and Khang Huynh from SD School of Mines for Bio-Navitas.

- ◆ Second place - Jonathan Lancelot from DSU for Astro Aeronautica.

- ◆ Third place - John Barbour of SD School of Mines for Counsil, LLC.

DAKOTA STATE
CEO CLUB

HIIM ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

DSU has new articulation agreements with regional community colleges for Health Information Management (HIM) programs.

Students who attend Minnesota State Community & Technical College, Northeast Community College in Nebraska, Northeast Iowa Community College, Saint Paul College in Minnesota, Southeast Technical College, and Western Dakota Technical College can transfer their credits into Dakota State's HIM programs.

"Articulation agreements are very important to the DSU HIM program because they attract students to our bachelor's degree who are already prepared with the basic knowledge and skills of the Heath Informatics and Information Management (HIIM) profession," said Dr. Renae Spohn, Director of HIM programs.

DATA DEMAND DRIVES NEW APPROACHES TO HEALTH INFORMATICS EDUCATION

The STEM career opportunities in health informatics and information management (HIIM) are abundant. Practitioners in HIIM can work in coding, analyzing, securing and maintaining patient health information, leading health information governance programs, creating electronic health record dashboards or designing initiatives to protect patient privacy.

"One of the common myths about our profession is that it's going away," said Dakota State University's Dr. Renae Spohn. "It's not. It looks different after the implementation of electronic health records, but in some ways, there is even more work to do."

As technology has evolved, electronic health records have become standard practice. Electronic health records are a patient's health records collected by health care providers in a digital format. "Today's health care is transforming how and where services are provided for patients," Spohn said. "How the data is collected, analyzed and used for decision-making is changing as well, with the goal of personalization for patients and improved health care outcomes."

"While all data from the electronic health record can be used in research studies, it can also be abstracted and utilized in disease registries, such as cancer registries to improve cancer treatments, quality of care to patients and patient mortality rates," Spohn added. "Patient diagnosis and procedures are coded by HIIM professionals for billing. The coded data is utilized to identify patterns among individuals, families, and communities for population health, public health, and genomics."

DSU's program, which turns 50 in 2024, has seen changes in the industry that have led to evolving content and degree options. Students can earn a health care coding certificate, health information specialist certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in health informatics and information management. There is also a graduate certificate in health care data analytics. All of these are stackable programs that build upon each other and credits from certificates can count toward an associate degree, which can be applied toward a bachelor's degree. The health care coding certificate is often the entry point for the industry.

While the programs are stackable, the master's degree in HIIM doesn't require a background in the field.

"Our master's program is really an interprofessional program, meaning that all disciplines are coming into it," Spohn said. "It's all sorts of people, some who have healthcare experience and some who don't."

HIIM PROGRAMS WIOA PROVIDER

The Health Informatics and Information Management associate degree and the Health Care Coding Certificate program are eligible providers of South Dakota's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program.

The WIOA became law in July of 2014, and is "designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the job market," according to the S.D. Department of Labor & Regulation.

Through this program, employment and training services are made available for adults, dislocated workers, and youth. Additionally, adult education and literacy programs and vocational rehabilitation state grant programs assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

BY THE NUMBERS

489
TOTAL ENROLLMENT

100%
UNDERGRAD PLACEMENT

22.3
AVERAGE ACT SCORE

113
STUDENT ATHLETES IN 13 SPORTS

100%
GRADUATE PLACEMENT

20/4
FACULTY/ ADJUNCTS

11/3
GRAD ASSISTANTS STUDENT EMPLOYEES

19.6%
OF STUDENTS FROM THIS COLLEGE MAKE UP THE WHOLE UNIVERSITY

$23K
IN FY22 FOR RESEARCH EXPENSES FROM SPONSORED GRANTS/CONTRACTS

WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARE COMING FROM

42 SD COUNTIES

29 COUNTRIES

41 STATES

DAKOTA STATE
COLLEGE of BUSINESS & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

STUDENT NEWS

INTERNSHIP LEADS TO JOB OFFER

Justice Forster spent 10 weeks interning for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as part of the Financial Management Scholars Program over the summer.

A Business Administration major with a finance specialization and a minor in digital accounting, Forster was offered a permanent position with the FDIC after he graduated in December. He will be working as a Financial Institution Specialist in the Division of Risk Management Supervision at his assigned field office.

"This offer underscores his commitment and outstanding performance throughout his summer internship, along with his genuine enthusiasm for the banking industry," said Dr. Yenling Chang, Associate Professor in the College of Business and Information Systems (BIS).

"My business coursework, in general, and my finance courses with Dr. Chang, in particular, were extremely helpful in preparing me to intern with the FDIC," Forster said.

During his internship he assisted with on-site bank examinations, which primarily focused on completing assigned tasks pertaining to whatever CAMELS component was being reviewed as part of the examination.

"CAMELS are the factors used to rate financial institutions for Capital, Asset, Quality, Management, Earnings, Liquidity, and Sensitivity to Market Risk," he explained.

Forster's experience throughout the internship helped him understand the importance of learning time management to maintain a properly organized schedule. Additionally, he found the need for strong analytical skills.

"It's one thing to be able to have book knowledge, but having well-rounded analytical thinking skills is crucial to real-life situations in the workplace," he said.

Forster encourages other students to explore internship opportunities through attending career and internship fairs, information sessions, and networking.

"Internships are unequivocally valuable to students as they prepare to enter the workforce," he said. "Whether a potential employer is looking at your resume and notices applicable experience from an internship, or you end up working for the employer you interned with, they provided a strong, competitive advantage for post-graduation employment."

DATA ANALYTICS

Lizzy Elder always knew she wanted to enter the computer field but didn't want to do all the complicated math often associated with computer science majors.

After touring DSU and speaking with professors, she found her path in the Computer Information Systems (CIS) program. The program includes computer classes to learn how to program and business courses like accounting and statistics.

"It shows how everything is really connected in the real world," she said.

Elder explained that so much data is available today that it's essential to learn how to file through it and understand what it means.

"Every single company, everywhere you look, it doesn't matter if it's a tiny company or a big company, will need to analyze data," she said. "It's everywhere. So, learning how to work with the data and be profitable and profit off it is super important to companies."

Elder recommends the program for anyone interested in business or leadership. She explained that the program helps students understand the company's skeleton, take it apart and see how it functions and what is required in managerial roles.

"Dakota State does a really good job getting students ready for actual positions," she said.

DATA ANALYTICS COMPETITION

DSU College of BIS hosted the first Data Analytics Competition in March of 2023. The competition was sponsored by CAPITAL Services. About 50 teams applied to participate with 30 turning in data analysis for CAPITAL Services to review.

CAPITAL Services selected five finalist teams to compete: three teams were from DSU with another from Michigan and another from Augustana. The teams were composed of 3-5 students and one advisor.

The initial data analysis required teams to focus on the likelihood that a consumer will make on-time payments. The free competition allowed collegiate teams to evaluate big data sets and make data forecasts for real-world business needs.

Each team had 15-20 minutes to present their results to the audience. After the final team presentation, CAPITAL Services gave a short talk about the problem and shared best analytic practices. The judges consisted of CAPITAL Services employees and Dr. Austin O'Brien of DSU.

Two of the DSU team finalists came in first and second in the competition. The Data Infinity team won first. The team included Srikanth Appani, Naveen Kumar Ravula, Ramateja Vundamatla, Sohail Mohammad Abdul, and team captain Christina Mulu, advised by David Zeng. The Definitely Not Robots team won second place. The team included Amy Collins, Mary Simmons, Carter Squires, Gage Stavig, and team captain Michael Armstrong advised by Andy Behrens.

UNDERGRAD & GRAD RESEARCH

Each fall, DSU offers funded research opportunities to undergraduate students through the Undergraduate Student Mentored Research Initiative (SRI) program.

Ephrata Yared Feyissa, a Management & Marketing major, was awarded an SRI grant for the 2023-2024 academic year. She will be working with mentor Dr. Robert Girtz on a project titled: "The Effect of Family Background on Wages."

DSU also funds a Graduate Research Initiative (GRI) program and three BIS students were awarded grants for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Chris Kreider, a Ph.D.IS student is working with mentor Dr. Omar El-Gayar on a project titled: "A Randomized Control Experimental Assessment for a Novel Model of Authentication for Augmented and Virtual Realities."

Gary Zhou, a Ph.D.IS student is working with mentor Dr. Omar El Gayar on a project titled: "An NLP-based Knowledge Extraction Approach for IT Tech-support Transcripts."

Brad Fowler, a Ph.D.IS student is working with mentor Dr. Omar El Gayar on a project titled: "The Role of Privacy in the Adoption of Internet-of-Vehicles Technology in Consumer Automobiles."

VETERAN FINDS CAREER PATH IN COLLEGE OF BIS

Veteran Brenna Smith was injured while serving in the military, leaving her disabled. After exiting the military, she learned her VA benefits allowed her to return to school, so she began researching schools all over the country.

"When reading about Dakota State, everyone had great reviews, whether in person or online," she said.

Smith started doing IT courses before realizing that career path wasn't for her. "I switched to a business degree, and it was such a smooth transition," she said.

She is now in the process of earning a degree in Business Administration Technology with a certificate in Ethics in Technology.

A non-traditional, online student, Smith juggles raising her two daughters and completing schoolwork. The online courses allow her to start, stop, and adjust her schedule as needed.

Her courses even have online components she was surprised to find. In a biology class she was able to enter a virtual lab that requires all the same safety protocols as a real lab to successfully complete the experiments.

DSU is supportive of online students and make sure they have the same access to student service opportunities. Despite being located in Kentucky, Smith has access to career fairs and scholarship communications, just like on-campus students.

Her advice to anyone restarting their education is to take a few random classes and see how it feels. "Don't be afraid to change your major. Don't wait four years and go, 'Oh no, I don't like this.' Be honest with yourself."

FACULTY UPDATES

UTILIZING AI IN THE CLASSROOM

It may seem like Artificial Intelligence has suddenly infiltrated the entire world, but it's been around and in use for quite some time. Dr. Deb Tech has been integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into her marketing classes for years, even having her students utilize various tools like software that can help write ad copy.

"Any place that you can automate something, that's where AI comes into play," Tech said.

While generative AI using natural language processing (NLP) is not new, access to it through tools like ChatGPT is.

"What I've been telling my students is that if you're not good at using this, your competition will be," she said. "You need to know how to use AI just as much as you need to know how to use Excel spreadsheets or Word efficiently."

Adding, "This is just another technical skill that people have to know how to use."

She had her students utilize ChatGPT on a research paper assignment in one of her classes. They prompted ChatGPT to write a research paper, then used that version to guide them and help write a better paper of their own.

In her marketing technology course, Tech has students look at how AI will disrupt different industries. They discuss which companies might suffer because of the new technology and what strategies they can implement to adapt to the advances.

While AI has the potential to be a threat to some jobs, Tech also notes it's a way to make a company more efficient.

"What we typically say is that AI is for redundant tasks so you can free up your mind to focus on other creative tasks. Some job positions may be eliminated, but there will also be new jobs created." Her advice to her students about AI is "Embrace it, Don't be afraid."

However, it is important to remain aware and consider ethics, something she discusses with her students when utilizing AI tools. Beyond ethical discussions in class, the College of Business & Information Systems offers a Ethics in Technology undergraduate certificate. This certificate prepares students to examine the use of technologies to ensure companies are accountable and don't exploit user vulnerabilities or infringe on user rights such as privacy and data protection. They will gain awareness of the importance of considering ethical implications in making decisions, and use ethical reasoning to anticipate issues that arise in the use of technology and create plans for avoiding them.

Tech has given AI talks, including a session on how to give prompts that will create better results from generative AI and a presentation on the role of AI in the business world at the FBLA Fall State Leadership Conference at DSU.

TALLEY TALKS TO NERDWALLET

Dr. Dan Talley was a source for an article featured on NerdWallet titled "What Impacts Bank Account Rates Mid-2023."

He explained that banks have an incentive to keep interest rates on some savings accounts low to save on costs, but they also have to be competitive with other opportunities that savers have.

In the article, he said money market mutual funds were at the time a good example of getting high returns in a fairly safe and accessible way on an investment. However, they are not federally insured like bank accounts are. The article described money market funds as consisting "of short-term, high-quality investments such as U.S. Treasuries."

ZENG LEADS WORKSHOP

Dr. David Zeng, Assistant Professor, delivered a 50-minute lecture on the state of technology competition between China and the U.S. as part of a workshop titled "Huawei, 5G, and the China-US Technology Race: A NCTA Workshop for K-12 Educators via Zoom in March.

"U.S.-China Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the key issues that defines public policy, cultural and educational exchange/understanding, research and development collaboration, and international relations for years to come," Zeng said.

The U.S. and China are competing in all emerging technologies, AI, 5G, green technologies, biotechnology, quantum technologies, and semiconductors, Zeng explained.

The workshop was funded by the Freeman Foundation through the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia.

"Hopefully, the K-12 educators will be able to share their understanding with their students, which would improve mutual understanding between Americans and Chinese," Zeng said.

BROOKS EARNS HEALTHCARE AWARD

Assistant Professor Patti Brooks received the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations Chapter Achievement award. This award honors an individual who demonstrates effort and dedication as a volunteer leader for the South Dakota Chapter of Health Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS). Brooks has commited significant support to the development and execution of HIMSS SD events. Her contributions are crucial to the success of our programs. Brooks is the former Director of Quality and Accreditation for Avera Health Plans. Her roots are in Health Information Management where she spent over 10 years working in various roles in hospitals and nursing homes. She then spent close to 23 years on the IT leadership team for Avera. She has served as an adjunct instructor and Assistant Professor at DSU, teaching courses in health information management, healthcare informatics, and information systems.

Brooks has a bachelor's in Health Information Administration from DSU, an MBA from the University of South Dakota, and a master's and doctorate in Information Systems from DSU.

In the past, Brooks has served as president of the South Dakota Health Information Management Association (SDHIMA) and was the first president of the South Dakota Chapter of the Health Information Management and Systems Society (SD Chapter of HIMSS). She has also served as the SDHIMSS Director for two years and has been involved in the SDHIMSS program committee since the beginning of the chapter.
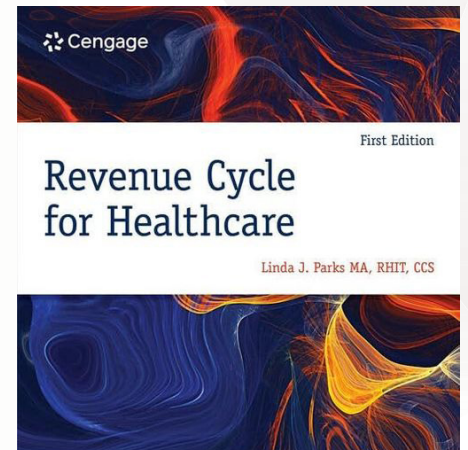
MERRILL HUNTER AWARD

The Merrill Hunter Award for Excellence in Research was presented to Dr. Omar El-Gayar, a Professor in the College of Business & Information Systems.

El-Gayar is an extensive researcher, often through collaborations and partnerships with external entities. He has contributed original research to peer-reviewed publications, securing research grants, chairing at professional conferences, serving on editorial boards, and reviewing for journals and conferences. However, he works to build the scholarly climate throughout DSU, through efforts with the Research Committee and with DSU student researchers.

The Hunter family sponsors the award to honor Merrill, long-time Madison newspaper publisher, veteran, and former president of the DSU Foundation. He was serving as president of the DSU Foundation at the time of his death in 1990.

PROFESSOR PUBLISHES BOOK

Associate Professor Emeritus Linda Parks has published a book, Revenue Cycle for Healthcare. The book will help readers understand advance topics in healthcare revenue cycle management and explore current issues impacting healthcare organization reimbursements. Learn about the various roles of Health Information Management (HIM) professionals, study measures of hospital performance, and examine important topics, such as, clinical documentation integrity, physician queries, predictive analytics use in revenue cycles, claim audits, denials and appeals, and pay-for-performance.

Parks included case studies and enrichment activities to give readers real-world examples to prepare them for employment.

ALUMNI & PHILANTHROPY

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA) BLOOD DRIVES

DSU's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club collaborate with the Community Blood Bank for their annual Community Blood Drive event. In November, they received 30 unites of donations, saving the lives of 90 local patients.

"This is truly fantastic," said Dr. Yenling Chang, advisor of the club. "We are proud to be a "community of giving," and we extend our heartflet gratitude for your unwavering support of this noble cause. We look forward to welcoming you back next year."

SOUP IS ON!

The College of BIS annual soup luncheon organized by Brenda Warren and Shannon Vostad, had 60 attendees this spring. The luncheon helped raise over $800 for the Renae Spohn HIIM Scholarship Endowment. These proceeds were matched by the HIIM faculty, Renae Spohn, Patti Brooks, and Julie Wulf Plimpton.

EMBE

Two DSU alumni were nominated for EmBe Tribute to Women awards in 2023.

Alumna Stacy Reck was nominated in the Healthcare and STEM category for her role at Avera Health, where she is Director of CDI and Utilization Review.

Alumnus Matt Paulson was nominated for the EmBeliever category, for his community work through MarketBeat that helps empower women and families.

Congratulations Stacy and Matt!

JAKE HULT

Once a Trojan, always a trailblazer, alumnus Jake Hult was named to SiouxFalls.Business inaugural 30 Under 30 list presented by MarketBeat.

He is a financial adviser with Northwestern Mutual. His nominator described Hult as "an award-winning, record-shattering industry leader already. He is the future of our company, the future of our industry, and the future of our community.

The nomination noted Hult s ability to scale his business, hire and develop team members, and rank in the top 10 of all financial advisers in the central region in their year of business.

Hult (B.S. '20), transferred from SDSU to play football and pursue an education in business. He graduated with a degree in finance and business management.

Being a student-athlete at DSU helped tremendously personally and professionally, he said. There was a huge change in my day-to day life from being a student at SDSU to becoming a student athlete at DSU. It helped me become more disciplined with time management as well as helped me harden a few personal skills like work ethic and communication.

Hult enjoyed his courses with Dr. Michael Roach, Dr. Deb Tech, and Professor Scott Morstad. These courses and his education in finance and business helped propel him to a great start in his career.

"Much of what I studied in college has overlapped into my work life and helped me acquire new licensing, certifications, and designations since graduation," he said.

Hult first joined Northwestern Mutual as an intern in 2018. Before graduating in December 2020 he passed the securities licensing exams, enabling him to start a full-service financial planning practice integrating insurance with investments, he explained. He s remained with the company and runs a financial planning practice, assisting clients with insurance, investment management, retirement, business, and estate planning.

I was truly honored to be recognized for this award," Hult said.

DR. RAJEEV BUKRALIA

Dr. Rajeev Bukralia started his career with a degree in biology and chemistry, but he was always intrigued by computers and was a self-taught programmer.

Bukralia earned his undergrad in India, where he founded a non-profit organization focused on preparing disadvantaged students from STEM related careers. While leading the organization, he helped develop various technical solutions, including software for library automation and data processing. Once arriving in America, he took a job with Black Hills State University (BHSU) as a senior programmer analyst and systems library.

"I worked on their website, digitization, library automation system, and I created mobile applications," he said. "My focus was entirely on how we could use more innovative technologies to make the library more usable and accessible to different types of users."

While working at BHSU, Bukralia joined the online master's program in Information Systems (IS) at DSU. He went on to complete DSU's doctorate program in IS. With those degrees and the lessons he learned at DSU, he built a fantastic career helping students find success.

At Black Hills State, Bukralia continued to move up from systems librarian to director of libraries and then dean of libraries, to dean of education outreach.

"I was privileged to launch many programs and oversaw several academic programs," he said.

Bukralia founded master's programs at BHSU in strategic leadership and sustainability. Eventually, he moved on to the University of Wisconsin Green Bay (UW), taking a position as their associate provost and Chief Information Officer, and running library and IT operations. There he helped develop UW's master's degree in data science. He later served as the director of data science outreach and taught in the data science program.

Seven years ago, he joined Minnesota State University, Mankato. Bukralia is an associate professor, graduate program coordinator for all Computer Information Science graduate programs, & director for the MS in data science program.

In this role, he is able to continue to cultivate his passion for working with students. "The biggest thing is I want students to succeed," he said.

Bukralia founded and advises the student group DREAM (Data Resources for Eager & Analytical Minds) in the areas of data science and artificial intelligence (AI). "I started with two students, and now the club has more than 300 students."

Students from a variety of backgrounds have joined DREAM. The club provides students with opportunities to hear from tech industry leaders, network, compete in events like hackathons, and conduct research. As a researcher, Bukralia is interested in data science, AI, ethics of AI, and IT strategy.

ROBSON FINDS SUCCESS IN CALI

Alumna Lexi Robson has found career success in San Francisco, Calif. as an IT Audit Consultant at Protiviti.

Robson (B.S. '21, M.S. '22) earned a bachelor s degree in Business Administration with a specialization in business technology and completed a master s degree program in Information Systems with a Network Security and Administration specialty.

Initially interested in a business degree, the Introduction to Computers courses inspired her to specialize in business technology.

I ultimately settled on business technology but wanted to learn more, so I went on to pursue a master s in Information Systems," she said.

At DSU, she found the faculty influential and helpful, sharing that Dr. Cody Welu was available to meet for guidance regarding all classes, not just the ones he taught.

The most important thing I learned as a student was to ask for help when I needed it," Robson said. "DSU s faculty is so helpful, and they want to see you succeed.

Her education at DSU gave her the background

and helped her build the knowledge for her position at Protiviti.

Some of the work I do almost reminds me of the homework I had while in college," she added.

In her role, she helps companies evaluate their ability to protect information assets. She does this through testing and evaluating current company processes.

This includes not only security protocols and development processes, but also continued

availability of information to authorized parties," Robson explained.

Technology auditors are involved in assessing and advising on virtually every aspect of how an organization uses technology to protect or enhance enterprise value. This includes reviewing control and regulatory compliance, security, privacy, software development, disaster recovery, technology governance, business intelligence, and many others.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

FBLA NATIONALS

Six DSU students represented DSU and the state of South Dakota at the national FBLA-Collegiate competition.

While eight participating members qualified for the national conference, which took place in June, only six attended the competition. Five of the six DSU students who competed placed in the top 10 at Nationals.

"Events like this highlight the incredible potential and promise of the next generation of business leaders," said Dr. Yenling Chang, FBLA advisor. "We are immensely proud to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of our students at the conference."

The five DSU students who placed in the competition include:

Justice Forster, a Finance major, earned seventh place in the Foundation of Accounting category and fourth place in Entrepreneurship Concepts.

Garrett Leiseth, a Management major, took seventh place in Organizational Behavior.

Ephrata Yared Feyissa, a Marketing & Management double major, achieved second place in Marketing Concepts and sixth place in Microeconomics.

Jacob Stricherz, a Computer Science major, secured fourth place in Computer Concepts and sixth place in Programming Concepts.

Kalani Mangin, a Computer Science and Accounting double major, earned third place in Programming Concepts and third place in Marketing Concepts.

"As an advisor to the FBLA-Collegiate student organizations, watching the students at the conference was an exhilarating and rewarding experience," Chang said. "The conference provided an opportunity for students to showcase their skills, knowledge, and leadership abilities in various business-related competitions and events."

CQI SUPERVISOR TRAINING

An interdisciplinary team that included BIS faculty Brenda Merkel, Michael Roach, and Wendy Simmermon, was awarded the 2023 Knowlton Excellence in Quality Award for their creation of a supervisor training series.

The multi-meeting series, titled Professional Training in Supervisory Management, utilized internal resources and faculty expertise to create cross-campus impact. Sessions included topics of culture, empathy, championing performance management, motivation, and evaluations.

"I was happy to participate in this project because of the widespread positive potential impact it would have on our colleagues and our students," Simmermon said.

STUDENT AWARDS

George Justice Forster was named the DSU College of BIS Lowry Scholar for the 2022-23 year. This award is based on the student s scholarly involvement and leadership in their program of study. It s named for the V.A. Lowry, President of DSU from 1933-1962.
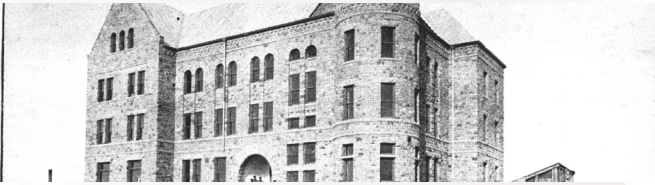
George Justice Forster and Madelin Smith were named College of BIS College Student Leaders. This award honors students in good academic standing who demonstrate outstanding leadership in their academic colleges.

LEADERSHIP MADISON

BIS Administrative Assistant Brenda Warren graduated from the Greater Madison Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Madison program in February.

Leadership Madison is an educational program intended for Madison area citizens who have an interest in their communities, their leaders and institutions, and specific leadership opportunities. During the program, participants heard from area experts, toured our community, participated in discussion, and learned how and why decisions are made.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ENTREPRENEURS

March 22, 2024

DSU's Entrepreneurs Day is scheduled for Friday, March 22. This year it will be hosted at Startup Sioux Falls in collaboration with Augustana University. Entrepreneurs Day features the annual business plan pitch competition for regional high school and college students. Three high school finalists and three college finalists present their elevator pitches to a panel of judges and audience attendees and are awarded first, second, and third place prizes of $1,000, $500, and $250. The event will also feature talks given by area entrepreneurs. This event is organized and put on by DSU's Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) Club and its academic advisor Dr. Michael Roach.

JA-IN-A-DAY

April 2024

The third annual JA-in-a-Day event will be hosted at DSU in April. The annual event gives area middle school students the opportunity to learn more about entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy through a program offered by Junior Achievement USA. The students learn from DSU faculty, staff, and students about how to turn an idea into a business, with the process of designing a product from start-to-finish, develop problem-solving processes, and wrap up the event with a product-pitch competition. Wendy Simmermon works with area sponsors to make this event possible.

SCRUBS CAMP

April 10, 2024

Dakota State University is hosting their annual Scrubs Camp on Wednesday, April 10. The one day, hands-on learning opportunity is designed to increase awareness, interest, and understanding of health careers available in South Dakota, all while learning about the skills and education that are required to become a health professional. High school attendees from grades 9-12 will learn about DSU programs like the Health Informatics and Information management (HIIM) degrees, which help hospitals and clinics running through chart tracking, protecting the legal interest of patients, communicating between caregivers, reporting, and workplace training. HIIM programs are stackable from a certificate level through associate, undergraduate, and graduate programs.

SEND US AN UPDATE

College of Business & Information Systems alumni and supporters we want to hear from you! Personal or professional, we love to hear how you are doing and what is going on in your life. Please visit Trojansunite. org and use the contact us form. While you're at the site, don't forget to stay up-to-date on all the latest DSU Foundation & Alumni news.

SCAN ME

SUPPORT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Drive success in business and technology! Your support fuels innovation and excellence at DSU's College of Business and Information Systems. Join us in shaping future leaders and groundbreaking advancements. Give today to empower students and build a legacy of business excellence. Donate now by scanning the QR Code. Your contribution is key to advancing education in business and technology at DSU.

MAJORS & PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE

Bachelor
- Artificial Intelligence in Organizations (BS)
- Business (BBA)
- Business: Accounting (BBA)
- Business: Business Technology (BBA)
- Business: Finance (BBA)
- Business: Management (BBA)
- Business: Marketing (BBA)
- Business Education (BSE)
- Computer Education (BSE)
- Computer Information Systems (BS)
- CIS: Application Development
- CIS: Business Analytics
- CIS: Project Management
- Health Informatics and Information Management (BS)
- Professional Accountancy (BS)

Associate
- Business Analytics (AS)
- Business Management (AS)
- Digital Accounting (AS)
- Health Informatics and Information Management (AS)
- Project Management (AS)
- Web Development (AS)

Certificates
- Data Analytics Certificate
- Digital Accounting Certificate
- Ethics in Technology Certificate
- Health Care Coding Certificate
- Health Information Specialist Certificate
- Information Technology Management Certificate
- Project Management Certificate
- Technology Database Management Systems Certificate
- Web Application Development Certificate
- Doctoral
- Doctor of Philosophy in Information Systems (PhDIS)

GRADUATE

Master
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Analytics (MSA)
- Master of Science in Health Informatics and Information
- Management (MSHIIM)
- Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS)

Graduate Certificates
- Business Analytics Graduate Certificate
- Health Care Data Analytics Graduate Certificate
- Information Technology Graduate Certificate
- Supply Chain Management Certificate
- Minors
- Business Administration Minor
- Business Education Minor
- Computer Education Minor
- Computer Information Systems Minor
- Digital Accounting Minor
- Entrepreneurial Studies Minor
- Finance Technology Minor
- Health Information Management Minor
- International Business Minor
- Marketing Minor
- Marketing Education Minor
- Project Management Minor
- Web Development Minor

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Dakota State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)

DSU's undergraduate and graduate business programs are accredited by ACBSP. The ACBSP is a leading specialized accreditation association for business education supporting,

celebrating, and rewarding teaching excellence. The mission of the ACBSP is to establish, promote and recognize educational standards that contribute to the continuous

improvement of business education and, through the process of accreditation, to recognize business schools and programs that adhere to these standards.

Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM)

DSU's Health Information Management programs are accredited by CAHIIM. CAHIIM is an independent accrediting organization whose mission is

to serve the public interest by establishing and enforcing quality Accreditation Standards for Health Informatics and Health Information Management

(HIM) educational programs.