

MSBAPM NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015 EDITION

IN THIS ISSUE

THIS MONTH

Student Article - 1
 Student Spotlight – 1
 4th of July Article
 Faculty Spotlight -1
 Interview Article
 Alumni Spotlight
 Faculty Spotlight -2

Questions?
 Contact
MSBAPMClub@uconn.edu
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS:

Tuition Due Date:

✓ Tuition Due date is 8/31/2015

Add/Drop Last Date:

✓ Last day to Add/Drop with a full refund is 9/11/2015 (any class dropped after this date will not be refunded, any class added after this date will require permission)

For guidance/Appointments on Courses/Plan of study,
 ✉anna.radziwillowicz@business.uconn.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL WORKSHOPS -2015:

Intro to Data Analytics – 09/09 from 4:00 to 5:00. P.M.

Intro to Statistics – 09/23 from 3:00 to 5:00. P.M.

SQL Query Writing – 10/21 from 3:00 to 4:30. P.M.

Analytics using R – 11/04 from 3:00 to 4:30. P.M.

Intro to Python – 11/18 from 4:00 to 5:30. P.M.

Apache Spark – 12/02 from 3:00 to 4:30. P.M.

* Dates subject to change *

Hartford Diaries

By Hongsu Cali Chen

Hartford is a small and quiet city between New York and Boston. When you complain about the expenses in big cities, Hartford offers you best of things that don't cost anything at all. I enjoy my life in Hartford, the more I explore it the more I feel at home.

10 reasons to fall in love with Hartford.

1. However terrible the weather, runners still finish the race in 2014 Hartford Marathon. The young and the old, the abled and the disabled, all race on one trial.



2. After a bitter, cold New England winter, the first day of spring is amazing.



And so is the summer.



Fall is simply spectacular.



3. Most importantly, centrally located UConn's Graduate School of Business.



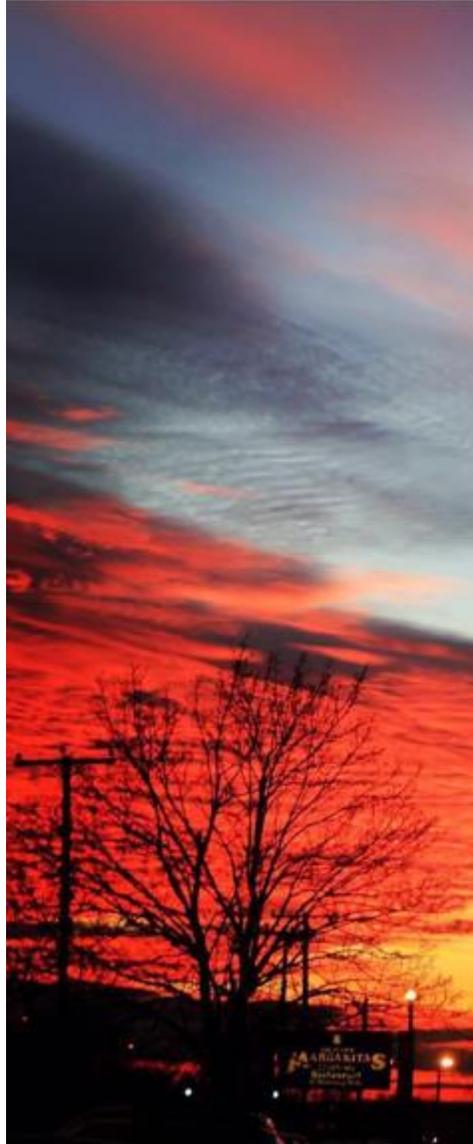
4. The Connecticut River is charming, be it summer or winter.



7. It accepts people of different colors and culture.



5. When traffic becomes busy at dusk or dawn, you can be sure to capture a beautiful sunset or sunrise.



6. It is the hometown of Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin".



8. You will find a variety of gourmet cuisines at affordable prices.



9. When you are in the mood to have a drink, there are many bars for your refreshment.

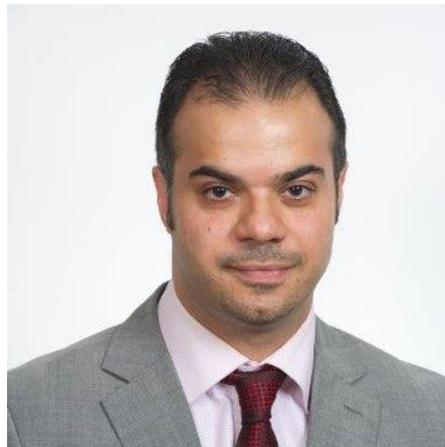


10. Last but not least, it is not where I live but it is where I choose to live. I have many friends here. It is not only a city but also my home.



Student Spotlight: Pouya Andalib

Pouya joined MSBAPM in Fall 2014, and he talks about his experiences, MSBAPM and the UConn School of Business.



NAME: Pouya Andalib
GRAD. DATE: Aug 2015
HOMETOWN: Iran
UNDERGRAD: Civil Engineering, Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST)

Q. TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF.

PA I was born in Tehran, the capital city of Iran, finished my undergrad in civil engineering at IUST. It was an IT revolution in my country while I was graduating so I chose to work part-time in this field that was quite intriguing for me. Interestingly, I found this position very challenging and in four years, I became the

middle manager of one of the big players in the DSL market and also a project manager for more than 100 nationwide projects. Three years later, I started my service oriented company and in two years it became one of the biggest subcontractors of DSL players in Iran. A year after that, I started my IT training institute. During those time periods, I used to receive lots of requests for sales, marketing, and management consulting and coaching for middle managers. This is where my next chapter of my business career began. I had more than a thousand hours of teaching and coaching. Mainly focusing on Iran's market, I designed nine customized courses in IT sales and marketing. I even had a chance to work in a couple of projects in Malaysia, Dubai and Turkey. Dealing with sophisticated business issues and corporate's concerns were truly a great experience for me.

Q. SHARE SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE.

PA I have shared some of them with my classmates but what I think management is nothing but experience and knowledge. I have always had coaches in my business career who have provided me different perspectives of any decisions I made on a daily basis. I think there is no right or wrong business decisions, and it is just the impact factor that is remarkable. Today I think back to what I could have done differently with the new tools and knowledge I have today. I still review my last seven year's management decisions regularly.

Q. WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE MSBAPM PROGRAM?

PA While I was doing sales, marketing and consulting for corporations, I realized that there is an incredible unknown area that can be an excellent support for corporate's marketing and sales decisions. If I wanted to be successful in my field, I had to unlock it so while applying to the school of engineering, I found this fantastic customized program in the school of business. The pleasure of knowing Professor Ram Gopal and Professor Jose Cruz made me love this program even more and made me switch to this one.

Q. WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?

PA I work with executives at UConn, and corporate partners. Although hanging out with friends, going to parties and watching movies or TV series are my best hobbies, I spend most of my time studying during the weekends which leaves me little time for pleasure. In addition, I enjoy going to the gym on a regular basis and playing tennis.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS/GOALS FOR THE FUTURE?

PA My goal for the future is to focus in middle management positions or projects management while having an extensive data analytics knowledge. A CDO position is one of my favorites and to achieve this goal, I have plan to partner with a writing coach and building my strategic networks all while taking classes outside UConn. Regularly, I seek advise from high-profile managers about my plans for the future and apply their suggestions in making

myself more desirable for the sharks out there.

Q. LASTLY, ANY ADVICE YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE MSBAPM STUDENTS?

PA I had an excellent opportunity to work with big corporations and run an operation in multi-million dollar centers at UConn. My Best advice for my classmates is, not to think of the BAPM degree as a magic tool wand for a job. You are day dreaming if you think this. If you want to be successful upon graduation, you must get out of your comfort zone and invest time in building the skills you have learned. I firmly believe that in the near future we will sit in a company and get the accessible and understandable data predictions in a couple of seconds. This is a fast growing field. Networking, interviewing, communication, knowing how to present ourselves are just a few of the must-learn soft skills that only we, the students, can learn by practicing and getting out of our comfort zone.

4th of July Weekend Celebration

The weekend of July 4th has been very exciting for all the MSBAPM

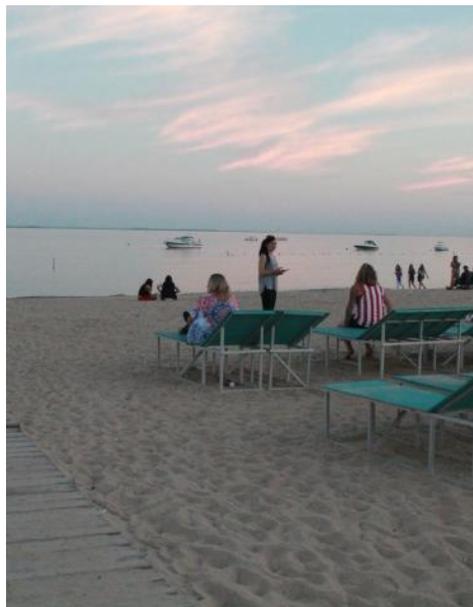
students. As we know 4th of July is the Independence Day for America and good long weekend to get together with friends and family. The city of Hartford celebrates this day with spectacular fireworks and celebrations. Many MSBAPM students traveled to NYC this year for a weekend full of celebrations. Others stayed home and spent time with their families attending BBQs, family get-togethers and firework outings.



Most of our MSBAPM students like to engage in traditional US events and try to make full use on their days off.

Students were thrilled to get this long weekend break and make road trips

to Rhode Island, Beaches, Boston and New York.



Faculty Spotlight: John Wilson



Q. TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES PRIOR TO UCONN.

JW Prior to UCONN, I was in the automotive business. As with many people, I thought it would be a temporary position while I decided what to do with my life, but I found that I enjoyed the responsibilities that came with running a multi-million dollar small business. However, after 23 years, I felt that I needed a change and teaching was something I had always wanted to try. I decided to get my MS degree with the thought that I could be an adjunct at a junior college, but UCONN gave me an incredible opportunity and, as they say, the rest is history.

Q. HOW DO YOU DEFINE GOOD TEACHING? DESCRIBE YOUR TEACHING STYLE.

JW In my opinion, the best teachers that I had were those that talked with the students instead of at the students. They were incredibly gifted at getting students to engage and I have tried to incorporate that into my style. I also place great value on bringing my business experience into the classroom. I strive to not only teach the subject matter, but to make sure that students understand how they need to implement the material in presentations and reports in a manner that allows them to influence decision makers. I ask that my students dare to be great. I see greatness in every one of them and I hope to help them find that greatness within themselves.

Q. TELL US ABOUT YOUR PASSION FOR VISUAL ANALYTICS. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE CHALLENGES TO THE TECHNOLOGY?

JW In my role at LIMRA, I am fortunate enough to speak to many industry leaders. There is a clear movement to visual analytics becoming a key factor in the business continuum, whether it is for reporting, data analysis, information distribution, etc. To me, the biggest challenge isn't in the visual analytics software, or skills necessary to leverage that software, but in the accessibility to relevant data.

Q. HOW DID TABLEAU ORIGINALLY GET INTRODUCED AT UCONN? WHAT'S THE BIGGEST IMPACT TABLEAU HAS HAD ON YOU PERSONALLY?

JW I had used Tableau extensively at LIMRA and I could sense that Tableau was quickly becoming the standard for visual analytics software. I initially approached Professors Cruz and

Gopal with my idea to design and introduce the class to our students. The reception has been fantastic and Tableau has been incredibly supportive. As the course matures, I am constantly seeking ways to make it more valuable for the students so that when they enter the workforce, visual analytics is a skill that can help differentiate them from other potential employees.

Q. WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST REWARDING AND MEANINGFUL ABOUT TEACHING AT UCONN? IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY?

JW The entire experience of going through the BAPM program and now teaching in it has been incredibly rewarding and it has literally changed my life. However, I think the most rewarding experience thus far has been hearing some testimonials from some of my students that have come back and spoke to the impact that my class had on their career, particularly in visual analytics. To hear some of those heart-felt comments is extremely humbling, but it validates that the BAPM program is preparing students in a very practical manner and that the material we are teaching is relevant and of great value.

I would also add that the support system and sense of family in the BAPM program is truly heartfelt. All of the staff clearly makes it their mission to ensure that each student is in the best position to succeed in the program and in life following graduation. The effort isn't just a job...it is truly a passion. Whether it be Ram or Jose, Kathy or Anna, each and every individual associated with the program is driven to see the

students realize the great value that a UCONN MS-BAPM degree offers.

Q. WHAT ADVICE, CHALLENGE, OR ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI?

JW There are enough barriers that will be thrown in front of you, so there is no need to create your own. Don't think of why you can't do something, figure out how you can. I have a close friend that plays on the UCONN football team, and I've often told him that it isn't about proving other people wrong, it is about proving yourself right. The greatness is in each and every student in the BAPM program. They just need to be receptive to allowing the great UCONN staff to help them find it.

HOW to be successful in your internship?

By MSBAPM Career Advisor: Katherine Duncan



Internships are one of the best ways to get your foot in the door and real-world experience! Take advantage of that! Whether you're making copies, shadowing an employee, or getting to do your own work remember that this is your first step into the workplace so take it seriously.

Be the first in and last out. Although you may not be getting paid you should still show that you want to be there. Trust me, this won't go unnoticed. You'll be exposed to more, learn more, and be seen as a reliable member of the team.

Exceed expectations. Go the extra mile! It's the little things that matter just as much as big ones so proof-read, double check for spelling and grammar, make sure never to cut corners!

Take initiative. Your boss may be busy with projects and deadlines so if you're not getting enough direction to keep you busy then think of ways you can be useful. Even if it's a small task it can show a lot about your work-ethic. Volunteer when possible to take on more responsibility.

Follow instructions to the letter. It might sound simple but attention to detail is important. No matter how small the task it shows that you're up for the challenge!

Take a genuine interest in the job. Even if you don't think that the internship will turn into a fulltime job you should still get invested in the work you do. Get the most out of your experience so you can take valuable skills with you!

Ask for feedback to improve. I'm sure you're doing a great job, but you don't know what you don't know! You're just getting started in your career so ask for ways that you can keep improving! Make sure not to inundate your boss with requests for feedback, but once in a while or right after a project is best! Your peers may have feedback for you as well that can be helpful.

Network with your coworkers. Start to cultivate connections now to help you in the future. Get to know those around you so that even if you don't get a fulltime role perhaps they can offer guidance as you continue your search.

When your internship is coming to an end, schedule a meeting with your manager in order to reflect on your work. This is also a time to ask about company opportunities which shows interest and initiative. If there are no possibilities to turn your internship into a fulltime job then at least ask for a letter of recommendation. (Which is equally as valuable to help you in your future job search!)

Alumni Spotlight: Thanapol Tanprayoon

Thanapol joined MSBAPM in Fall 2013 and he talks about his

experiences, MSBAPM and UConn School of Business.



NAME: Thanapol Tanprayoon
GRAD. DATE: Dec 2014
HOMETOWN: Bangkok, Thailand
UNDERGRAD: Industrial Engineering, Chulalongkorn University

Q. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR EXPERIENCE.

TT I grew up in Bangkok, Thailand and I completed my undergraduate studies in Industrial Engineering there. After that, I started to explore the field of Analytics through professional experience as a Productivity Analyst at Seagate Technology. I was exposed to a huge load of automated data from RFID applications and many parameter-generating product testing procedures which urged me to put my analytical and business skills into real practice. By working in a multifunctional team across the supply chain, analytics played an essential role in many of my result-oriented projects, from finding product yield improvement opportunity to its actual implementation and executive presentation. This related experience consequently fueled my passion to

seek a graduate degree to fulfill my skills and broaden my perspective in analytics, which is why I joined the MSBAPM program. Upon graduation, I joined PwC in New York as Forensic Technology Solution Consultant. Here, I leveraged analytics practices to identify vulnerabilities, solve compliance issues, and propose business solution to mitigate risks for my clients. In several projects, I have to conduct data mining and link analysis on the accounting data such as account payable/receivable, financial statements, transaction data, CRM data, and people soft data to detect fraudulent entities. From my experiences, I can say that data-driven approaches play very important part in every business.

Q. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE UCONN?

TT There are several reasons. First of all, UCONN is one of the most prestigious schools in the US. Especially at that time, UCONN was one of the few universities that offered analytics and PM graduate program, which is the field I was looking to get into. Moreover, MSBAPM program is eligible for OPT STEM extension which helps extend the opportunities to explore the professional world in US. All of these qualities came at very affordable tuition fee. So I think it is the best deal in the market for me.

Q. IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE BUSINESS ANALYTICS FIELD?

TT I think being a lifelong learner is very important to be successful in this field. We should always be curious to learn and be proactive to improve ourselves. With the explosive demand in analytics skills nowadays, in order to be ahead of the pack, we need to be able to adapt to the new technology, tools, and techniques as well as catch up with the current market trend.

Q. DID YOU FACE ANY CHALLENGES IN THE MSBAPM PROGRAM? IF YES, HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

TT I think one of the interesting challenges that I faced is the cultural difference here. I was the only one Thai student in the program and perhaps the only one in the whole city. Sometimes, people do something I had no clues. Sometimes, they speak their local languages that I don't understand. Or sometimes, we had the food that I never ate before. But I think of it as a good opportunity to explore the world. In fact, this is one of the reasons I flew abroad to study. I overcame this challenge by trying to adjust myself. Be open-minded, be confident, and be an interesting individual that bring diversity to the group. In the end, I can get along with people here, enjoy the difference, and learn a lot of new things.

Q. YOU TOOK UP MANY COURSES & CERTIFICATIONS DURING YOUR EDUCATION, HOW USEFUL ARE THOSE IN YOUR CAREER? DID YOU FEEL ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER CANDIDATES?

TT I find it pretty useful in many ways. Obviously, it expands the analytics knowledge I learned from

MSBAPM into the specific level. I also think that the courses and certifications appeared on my resume demonstrate to my potential employers how determined I am to improve myself. It is also a good opportunity to discuss and collaborate on the projects with the online community which keep me updated with the world and expand my professional network.

Q. LASTLY, ANY SUGGESTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE MSBAPM STUDENTS?

TT I would like to suggest to the current students that being a student is a good opportunity to step out of your comfort zone. Learn new things while appreciate what you already have. Meet new people while keep connected to your old friends. Explore the new opportunity while focus on the goal you set. And above all, enjoy life and be happy.

Faculty Spotlight: Professor Suresh Nair



Q. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS AS THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR UCONN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS?

SN My vision is to take our graduate programs to the height they can justifiably achieve, which is being counted among to top graduate programs in the country in their respective disciplines. We have the MBA in 3 formats (full time, part time and executive), and 4 MS programs (accounting, business analytics and project management, financial risk management and human resource management).

All of these are highly ranked – for example our [MSA program is #3](#) in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, the MSBAPM and MSFRM programs are in the top 10-20 in these relatively new disciplines, and the full time MBA program is [a top 50 program](#) according to the latest *U.S. News & World Report* (in the company of such reputable programs as Purdue, Arizona and Georgia, among others). This is a reflection of our excellent program design and delivery, highly qualified and experienced faculty, great students, a highly committed staff and very effective career development and placement efforts.

But we can improve further from here, and given the strong foundation we already have, this is eminently achievable and should be reflected in even higher rankings in the coming years. Good rankings get us onto a benign cycle of being able to attract better students and faculty, improve alumni pride and interaction with the school, and overall further enhance the brand value and offerings of the school.

With that vision, the faculty and staff are moving diligently on a number of initiatives to continuously enhance our programs on design and delivery, and working with student clubs to improve extracurricular activities and student satisfaction.

Q. WHICH SUBJECTS DO YOU TEACH AT UCONN? AND WHAT IMPORTANT LEARNINGS CAN STUDENTS TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR CLASS?

SN As an administrator I am supposed to be teaching one class a year, but instead I am teaching three, mainly so I can interact with students

from three different programs (FMBA, EMBA and MSBAPM). This direct interaction with students helps me be more hands-on and timely in addressing their concerns.

For the FMBA, I teach a course on spreadsheet modeling, for the EMBA I teach a course on operational analytics, and for the MSBAPM it is an elective course that I designed on analytical consulting for financial services. All are analytic courses with large dose spreadsheets. The last one leverages my consulting experience with financial service firms, and it is the same course I also teach every year in the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

In the past, for two decades, I have taught the core MBA course on Operations Management.

My philosophy in teaching is to expose my students to practical tools and techniques that they can immediately use when they graduate. That is the main take away. I don't cram my courses with a broad range of material, but focus on a few important topics that I know from my consulting and industry work experience to be important for day to day management in firms. I don't clutter the lecture with arcane minutiae that are unlikely to be ever used by the manager. I focus on retention and recall years after the course ends, so I don't dwell on formulas and algorithms, and instead emphasize problem formulations. I stopped using textbooks in the mid-nineties because either because they are expensive and include many more topics than I intend to cover, or because there are no good texts on some of the material I teach. Instead

I give out comprehensive class notes to my students, which they have found to be very useful.

Q. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THERE IS A NEW CAMPUS COMING UP IN HARTFORD. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS THAT STUDENTS CAN GET AT THE NEW CAMPUS? IS IT ANY DIFFERENT FROM GBLC?

SN Yes, if all goes as planned, in Fall 2017 we will be moving to a new Hartford campus around the [Times building](#) on Prospect Avenue, a few blocks from GBLC. We will be sharing the campus with all the programs currently in the UConn West Hartford campus, including undergraduate programs in business, liberal arts and sciences, and graduate programs in social work and public administration. Some of our classes will be held in 38 Prospect Street, two blocks from the Times building. A total of about 2300 students and 250 faculty members will call this campus home, and it will have the campus atmosphere and feel that some students may be missing in GBLC.

Q. IS IT CHALLENGING PLAYING TWO DIFFERENT ROLES AT UCONN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (AS A PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN)?

SN Actually I think of myself more as a Professor than an administrator. I brought just a small shopping bag of things from my old office to the new one in the Dean's suite. I packed light because I know I will be going back to faculty when my time is up. I am as accessible to students and my staff and faculty colleagues as I always was, my office door is always open. Recently I was on vacation in Europe but was answering each of my emails

in a timely manner, and on being asked by my staff about it on my return I told them, only half-jokingly, that I feel like I am on vacation the whole year. I enjoy both roles and it does not stress me out one bit.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AT UCONN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS?

SN This is a tough one, since I have had many. UConn has been very good to me, and I am eternally grateful for everything I have been able to achieve while here. The obvious proud moments were when I got my tenure and later my promotion to full professor, but the other ones happen with regularity when I see my teaching ratings and student comments on my Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET), and get teaching awards. But if I were to choose the proudest one, it would be my being asked to be Associate Dean the first time around in 2006 by then Dean Mohamed Hussein. I was close enough to graduate students and staff to be aware of their grievances, and got to work immediately. It was gratifying to realize that I could make a difference, and I believe I did.