Congratulations to MSBAPM team for winning Travelers Analytics Case Competition
GOING INTO APRIL ’17

Welcome to BAPM Tashika Morton

Agile through LEGO©
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Hello BAPM students and faculty,

Welcome to the UConn MSBAPM Newsletter.

The Newsletter now has two new editors in the editorial team – Milind Jagre from the Class of Fall 2016 and Ramachandra Karthik from Class of Spring 2017.

Milind is an avid blogger and a Hadoop expert. He has over three years of professional experience working on various analytical technologies. At UConn, he is one of the Career Ambassadors with the career coaching team. He is also the Vice-President of the Graduate Finance Association club at BAPM and now the Co-editor of the BAPM Newsletter.

He blogs at [www.milindjagre.wordpress.com](http://www.milindjagre.wordpress.com), and you can reach him at milind.jagre@uconn.edu

Karthik is an entrepreneur and a database administrator. He has the experience of starting and managing two businesses. His love for statistics brought him to analytics. At UConn, he is the co-editor of the BAPM Newsletter.

You can reach him at Ramachandra.karthik_devulapalli@uconn.edu

Your suggestions and valuable feedback is most welcome on the email addresses mentioned above.
Welcome, Tashika Morton!

BAPM, please welcome, Tashika Morton. She is the newest addition to our BAPM family as a Career Advisor. Here is the message from her to all of us.

“Hello, everyone. It has been a great start in BAPM thus far as many of you have warmly welcomed me. If we have not yet had a chance to meet I wanted to introduce myself further. As you may or may not know, I previously worked for Travelers as a Consultant for six years assisting undergrad, and graduate students find internship or leadership development program opportunities. Also, I managed all operational functions for career events across U.S. college campuses.

I have always been very passionate about seeing students develop and grow from start to finish as it is such a rewarding job, and that is what motivated me to make the transition.

To get a head start during your career endeavors I will share a few quick tips: be proactive, research, be intentional, create a timeline, attend the workshops –great information and forum, stay motivated, network, be engaged, and keep an open mind.

I find these tips to be helpful during any career search. I look forward to providing the level of support to see you all succeed, and wishing you all the best during your journey.”

Agile Through LEGOs

The inspiration to write this article came on February 23rd, 2017 when I was done with my Weekly Advanced Project Management class taught by Prof. Kevin Wilkins.

I got very impressed by his “teaching skills” after that class. Being an outside to the business world, I was finding it a little difficult to correctly understand and distinguish between the core concept of Agile Project Management, and I am glad that I took this class, as I am learning new things on a daily basis regarding this area of project management.

It is one of those classes which I am going to remember for the rest of my life. It taught me a lot of things which should be done while solving the real-world problems. Now, you might ask, what extraordinary thing he did in that class that I got so much impressed. Well, my answer to that will be the method that he used for teaching us. He used LEGOs, yeah, you heard that right, thousands of pieces of LEGOs.

The task was simple. Our class of 10 students was divided into two teams and were given a simple task to build a city with the help of Agile Project Management tools and methodologies. As we were quite excited, we started off “building our city.” In Agile, it is called as the sprint. After our sprint was over, the professor, very calmly discussed with us about what went wrong and asked what could be done to get out of it. This was my first lesson – “Always ask a lot of questions before actually getting off to work.” We were supposed to build only one city, whereas we ended up building two, wasting precious time, money, and resources.

In the second sprint, we committed few mistakes, though lower in number as compared
to the first sprint. This was my second lesson of the day – “Always communicate within and among the teams.” We have Scrum Masters in each team in Agile Project Management, whose job is to make sure that the Project Scrum team is following the Scrum practices and values and be in touch with the Product Owner, who has a clear vision of the final product that the scrum team works on. After this sprint, we again got back together and started brainstorming about the things that went wrong and what could be done now to optimally use the remaining resources and deliver the viable product to the Product Owner.

The third sprint was the one in which we outperformed ourselves. We, as one single team, did work on “building one city,” doing optimal use of the resources within the stipulated period and delivering the viable and function city prototype.

Here is the picture of the city that we built at the end. Doesn’t it look Awesome?

What followed by this, completely blew up my mind. When the professor started asking questions about what we learned by doing this exercise, all of us could tell easily the things that went wrong and what we could have done instead of committing those mistakes. That experience, right there, made it one of the best lectures I have attended in my life.

I believe, the teaching methodology like this helps us to understand the concepts to their core and somehow does not let you forget about it.

Thank you, Professor Kevin Wilkins, for such a wonderful class.

World Culture at BAPM: - China
By Xiangyi Zhang

Q: Please Introduce yourself.
I am Xiangyi Zhang, and I am from Anhui province in China. I joined BAPM in Fall 2016. Before BAPM, I did my undergrad in Finance from the University of Bridgeport. I explored the US a little bit, and did volunteer work before joining UConn.

Q: As we all know you celebrated the Chinese New Year - the year of the rooster, how did you celebrated it this time?
Every year, we celebrate festivals with our family, but since we do not have family here in the US, I celebrated my new year with my Chinese friends. I, along with some of my friends traveled to our friend’s place here in Connecticut, and we celebrated by eating dumplings and hotpot. To those who do not know about hotpot, it is a warm container consisting of vegetables, meat, etc. This is the biggest festival in our country like Christmas here in the US. It signifies the first day of the New Year in the Lunar Calendar. People visit their families on this special occasion.
Fun Fact: The shape of the dumpling coincides with the shape of the currency back in QIN dynasty. It is called YUNBAO in Chinese, which is a small metal ingot that was used in Ancient China as currency. My grandparents told me this story.
Q: Apart from Chinese New Year, what are the major festivals in China?

Mid-Autumn Festival, officially known as Zongzi Jie in China, is the second most important festival in China after the New year and we eat Mooncake during this festival. The other festival is the Dragon Boat Festival, also known as Duanwu in China, and it is celebrated to remember the sacrifice of a Warring States period poet and minister, Qu Yuan, and we eat rice puddings on that day.

Q: How do you feel about your old culture?

There is no religion in China. I am very proud of the traditional Chinese culture.

Q: How does a family function in China?

Generally, in the olden times like when my grandparents were kids, they all lived together, but as the world progressed, cultures had to change. Right now, in the countryside, people do stay together with parents and grandparents, whereas in cities, because of work and better opportunities, people tend to stay in nuclear families. At the end of the day, it is an individual's choice to stay with their parents or not. One more thing, after marriage, depending on the mutual decision, they decide where they want to stay.

Q: What was the cultural shock that you got when you landed in the US?

In China, being my home, I connect with people easily, which takes some time here in the US. Obviously, there are differences in table etiquettes and manners between these two cultures. We always find a reason to get together in China, whereas here, everyone is independent, which sometimes scares me, but I guess we all should experience this to get out of our comfort zone.

Q: What are common misconceptions regarding China?

I think of two things when you ask me that.

- It is often shown that most of China is poor, which is not entirely true.
- All of China is not polluted. Yes, maybe it is true with a couple of cities, but not in the whole country.

We thank Xiangyi for sharing this wonderful information about her culture. Wish you all the best for her future endeavors.
**How to Juggle Multiple Offers**

It happens all the time – you interview with a few companies and the one you want to work for the most always seems to take the longest to extend an offer. Understandably, you want to accept an offer from Company A so that you have at least one job, and you do not want to turn down a good offer in case Company B falls through.

However, it could be detrimental to your career for multiple reasons to accept more than one offer and then have to turn one down. One reason being that after a long hiring process, the HR team and managers of the firm that hired you would be winding down their recruitment process since they anticipated you’d fill the role. If you withdrew, the organization would have to go through the entire process all over again. This can be upsetting and frustrating for all involved and leaves a bad taste in their mouth.

Also, keep in mind that recruiters move around from company to company. Accepting multiple offers would leave you with a damaged professional reputation that could follow you as the recruiter from company A might move to a company you apply to down the road. Therefore, following through and taking a job that you’ve accepted is the most ethical thing to do. Breaking your word at a later stage would affect your professional integrity. So, what should you do?

Reach out to HR or your recruiter and get to know when you can expect a written offer. Once receiving an offer always be positive and thankful for the offer from Company A. (Remember, don’t make any moves before you have a written offer – verbal offers are not 100 %.) Make sure you have a clear understanding of the details and expiration date. If you don’t think you’ll have an offer from Company B in time, then ask for more time on the offer A if necessary. Be prepared that they might ask why you aren’t planning to accept sooner or your potential employers could get worried if they don’t hear back from you promptly.

Take time to evaluate the offer(s) completely before deciding. You can rank the criteria that are most important to you for an offer and think about how it/each will help you with your professional and personal goals. Remember that once you have a decision, don’t delay informing HR. If you’re turning down the offer, try, to be honest. It will be appreciated if you give them an understanding of your decision-making process. However, if you have received an offer and are interviewing/negotiating for another more desirable organization/role alert them. An organization that truly wants to hire you will not want to lose you to a competitor. Especially if they aren’t in contention simply due to timing, they’re unaware of. Use care while doing so, but simply inform them that you have another offer though you’d prefer to work for Company B. Be honest with the recruiters and hopefully Company B will accelerate their decisions to make sure they don’t lose you.
Personalized Medicine – The medicine of the future, the future of medicine

All humans process information in a different way, based on their perspective. This comes from various exposures and the backgrounds through which they look at the information. This same concept is very similar to how each person processes food in their own way. At a high level, even though the procedure is the same, each one of us has our own way of digesting food. This is also similar to how our bodies react to medicines. Each one of us reacts in varying forms to medicines based on the genetic information stored in our DNA.

The medicinal care system that exists presently in the world is mainly focused on care based on certain common standards established to serve a large scale of the population at the same time. That is why we have generic medicine. Would a generic approach to medicine take the world of medicine forward? How do we take medicinal accuracy to the next level to help solve diseases and endemics of the future? This is a question that personalized medicine or precision medicine is trying to answer.

What?

The National Human Genome Research Institute has a specific definition of a personalized approach to medicine as the usage of an “individual’s genetic profile to guide decisions made regarding the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease.” Personalized medicine is a targeted medicine technology that allows medicines to be administered to a particular patient based on their genetic orientation. Products are trained to the individual patient based on their predicted response or risk of disease. This is far more effective than the generic form of assignment that is practiced today as it takes into account the variation in the genetic information from person to person and how the drug can and will be absorbed.

How?

The diagnostic tests include molecular and cellular analysis of the genetic make-up of the patient. This usage of genetic information to prescribe medicines is termed as pharmacogenomics which analyses the response of the gene to a particular drug. For example, DNA and RNA sequencing techniques can help us note of mutations in genes helping in confirmation of diseases ranging from fibrosis to cancer.

To put it simply, if someone gets sick, the molecular basis of the disease is an important piece of evidence for doctors. This analysis of the patient’s genome revolutionizes the approach to a particular disease. In most cases, conducting diagnostic tests to cater to the genome of each patient could lead to successful drug treatment rather than immediate surgery. This also plays a huge role in how the treatment of endemic outbreak is advanced.

This case is further established when we consider the endemic Ebola. The Ebola vaccine has gone through a lot of iterations, but in the initial stages, it was not possible to control the endemic in an effective manner because the disease expressed itself in a unique way, varying from person to person. This caused humungous problems in containing the spread, leading to the disastrous consequence. Understanding the genetic information before administration of medicine could probably have had a positive outcome.

Success Stories!

A lot of success stories highlight the importance of personalizing medicinal requirements and tailoring them to the genetic make-up of the patient. Have a look at the following:
Stephanie Haney was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. On the insistence of her doctor, a genetic test was conducted on her tumours. This gave a major clue to understanding what might or might not work in her treatment. A clinical trial for the Xalkori drug and three years later, her tumors were barely visible.\

Some of personalized medicine’s greatest success stories are in the cancer treatment area as above. A lot has also been achieved in the treatment of HIV/AIDS, heart diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and certain infectious diseases. Rare genetic disorders can also be detected early and to a large extent, controlled with pharmacogenomics.\

**Current Problems:**

But not everything is as rosy as it seems. The technology is still in its nascent stages, and it comes with its own set of problems. The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (A.C.M.G.) say that there aren’t enough trained medical geneticists to bring out the correct diagnosis. At the Boston Children’s Hospital, a problem was found that explains the burning problem with this technology today. A five-year-old girl was brought in, diagnosed with DiGeorge Syndrome by her previous physician. The symptoms include delayed development, failure to thrive, short stature and speech delay. The doctor at the Hospital was horrified at the prognosis when the reports were re-examined. The tests show a missing link in the fragment of code in the genes like in DiGeorge Syndrome. But, not where they have to be located to cause the syndrome. It was concluded to be an insignificant deletion of information. Benign and harmless.\

There is an urgent need to address such cases. Fields like medical informatics and pharmacogenomics are revolutionary and will propel medical care into the next dimension. But, understanding the necessity of the human element in interpreting the results is equally vital. They cannot exist without the other. At least in today’s times.

**Conclusion:**

Like with every change, there is always resistance. The electrocardiogram, ECG, when developed and introduced, was discarded by world-class physicians all over, as unreliable. But, as iterations were made with advanced technology, we saw an increase of trust and reliability. Though there are a lot of success stories that vouch for personalization of medicine and many pundits tout it as the future of medical care, there are a lot of skeptics too. As the field of analytics takes a bigger space in the medical field, the pace at which genetic information can be processed and how it is done improves over time; genomics will become an integral part of everyday diagnosis and medical administration. This naturally will lead to better understanding of genetics and growth in the number of physicians who understand the importance of proper interpretation of results. That personalization of medicine with genetic information is the future, is certain here, it is just a matter of time.
Shatakshi Narayan

Shatakshi won the "Brick & Code 2.0 Challenge" and thus was offered an internship with Walmart. Let us get some tips and tricks from herself.

**Q: Can you please briefly introduce yourself?**
I am Shatakshi Narayan, and I joined BAPM in Fall 2016. I have three years of experience. I worked in the eCommerce startup Snapdeal as a Senior Business Analyst. I have an Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering Degree from Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, India.

**Q: How did the Walmart event happen? What was the timeline?**
We got to know about the Walmart competition from one of the MBA students, so I formed a team with a couple of other BAPM students; two data scientists and a software engineer. We were selected solely based on our resume, and we got to know about our selection in December, and the competition was in January. It was a 2-day event, wherein the actual 30-hour competition was on the second day followed by the presentation by individual teams. We all were shuffled into different teams, and I landed on a team of a product manager, a business manager, and a software engineer, with me being the data scientist.

**Q: What was the problem statement and how did you guys approach it?**
The problem statement was interesting and was targeted at millennials. They challenged us to come up with a strategy to improve their online shopping experience. We had to create our own hypothetical data based on our industry research. Our team came to a conclusion that Walmart should focus on personalization of their website which is missing right now. My responsibility was to support this claim with the help of data and research. We suggested that Walmart needs to relate individuals with milestones in their lives. This would enable Walmart to provide recommendations based on customer data. This will eliminate the hassle of selecting the products separately.

**Q: How did Walmart evaluate your solution?**
In those 30 hours, we built a website prototype and showed them that this approach might increase their online revenue by 83% using click through ratio parameter. I believe that the milestone concept was a novel idea regarding its feasibility. I think these two factors clinched it for us.

**Q: Were there constraints on the tools and technologies to use?**
They were open to any tool and technology.

**Q: Did you really not sleep for 30 hours?**
Ha ha. It was our choice. We strategized and managed to sleep for 4-5 hours and finish the product well in advance.

**Q: How did you guys work as a team?**
The business manager was responsible for checking whether the solution made business sense to Walmart or not.
The product manager considered the feasibility of the solution regarding technology. The software engineer was responsible for building the website prototype. I, the data scientist, supported our solution with the help of data and research.

**Q: What will be your suggestions and recommendations for BAPM students?**
I will suggest we should team up with people from different backgrounds, different domain knowledge, get active on the discussion board, do your thorough research. One should not hold back their ideas, express opinions freely, participate in data challenges. On behalf of all BAPM students, we thank Shatakshi for sharing her wonderful experience with us.

**Alumni Corner- Aditya Padala**

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**Q. Tell us about yourself.**
I work at Google as Product Data Analyst/Business Strategist to fight abuse originating from Google Cloud Platforms. Much of the work that we do involves cross-functional collaboration, data analysis, and machine learning. Before Masters, I worked for two years as Data Analyst at Latentview Analytics and one year as a Business Analyst at Standard Chartered Bank. That was the time I was introduced to “Data Science,” and I really gained interest in it. I foresaw the opportunities emerging in the US and decided to pursue my career here with a graduate degree from UConn.

**Q. Which BAPM course helped you the most?**
I loved Data Analytics using R course by Prof. Ram Gopal. Arguably the best one. He is one of the most passionate professors who cares about students and helps them understand a concept. This course helped me correct some of the concepts in statistics.

**Q. What did you like about BAPM and how can BAPM improve?**
The course has the best ROI, good location advantage, and flexibility regarding choosing professors. I also liked that there is a blend of business courses along with technical and trust me, it’s a very good selling point in the interviews.

In my perspective, there is always a scope for improvement in any program. In BAPM, I feel, we should focus on the following key areas:

1. **Career Fairs:** I know these things take time, but I think if we increase the number of Career Fairs in Analytics Domain, it will help the current students.
2. **Course Structure:** I would recommend a focus on quality assignments, instead of quantity.
3. I know it is asking too much, but some student interaction events must happen as we don’t have a campus.

Q. How did you crack the Google interview? How did you prepare for it? How did you get Google interested in your profile? How can current students work towards that direction?

Research, practice, patience are the key components to crack the Google interview. I applied through LinkedIn, and luckily, I got a call. Google is very supportive in recruiting talent, and they don’t reject unless you give them a reason to. My approach was to take one step at a time by reading about the interviewer and his/her work and prepare from various blogs, forums, etc. Google interviews are known for testing the candidate’s approach and thinking, so reading open-ended cases, practicing business problems, and discussing with your friends would help you to structure your answers better.

I have posted “Learning path to become Data Scientist” on my LinkedIn profile, which elaborates everything that I practiced during my job hunt. That post should give anyone a very good understanding of different sections to concentrate.

Q. As an alumnus, in what way, would you like to be involved with the program?

Yes, I am always happy to help our fellow BAPM students. They do reach out to me via Facebook or LinkedIn. I wouldn’t mind taking a session with the students as well online. The alumni base has also grown strong. A lot of people are working in different companies in the East Coast. Inviting them to share their working experiences in the US would help the current students understand the job scenario better, and help them to network with the alumni.

Q. How and where you used to hang-out here in Hartford? Any suggestions?

I stayed in Clemens. Most of my friends were there too. We used to hang out (house parties) at friend’s places most of the time. Apart from that, we used to go to Barcelona, Pig’s-Eye, Cheesecake Factory, WOB, City-Steam, Riverfront, Reservoir and much more. Explore many places around Connecticut but be safe. And Travel while you are a student. Unlike my current situation, you have so much time for that. Trust me!

Q. What else would you like to share with us?

I love cooking. I am not so great with experimentations but certainly can cook better than most of my friends. Like many of you, even I used to have a group of people in college with whom I would hang out most of the time. Some of the best times we had were the ones we would just sit on the couch, sip tea in the late night and talk about random stuff.

Aditya, from behalf of all BAPM students, we thank you for taking time out and giving this wonderful insight about your journey at BAPM. We look forward to your continued success.
7 questions with the Faculty: Katherine ‘Kat’ Duncan

Q: How did you get your first teaching role?
A: This was when I used to work for a company as a Headhunter, searching for analytics professionals. I always wanted to get into Higher Education but there was no real outlet. It was a deadlock; you cannot get into the field without experience but to get in, they asked for experience! One day, as I was walking my dog, I met a lady who was walking her dog. We two dog lovers started talking, and I get to know that this lady worked as a professor, teaching undergrads in communication. And, as I told her that I was a communication graduate working as a headhunter, she thought I could add value to her students by guiding them with career advice. That is the opportunity I grabbed. I gave them seminars through the semester. That's how I landed my first teaching role.

At the end of the semester, as the students leave feedback, they chose my lectures as what added the most value. Johan left all the feedback papers in my mailbox! That was so nice of her. I cherish them even today.

Q: What can we learn from this story?
A: That you should be able to put yourself out there, you should be willing to be open, and most importantly, you should be clear about what you want and what your expectations are. Otherwise, those conversations are just lost opportunities. I think it is organic; the whole process. The core should be the same. Set a plan and have a backup plan. Like the trunk of a tree, the basic is known, and even if it is something offshoot from that, we still have the motivation to keep working. So even if the work branches out to some other field, as long as it close to the core, we will have that internal drive to work for it. That is what is going to make us happy!

I might be repeating myself over and over again, but, Networking is important. As I kept saying in the workshops, there is a hidden job market that works here, and that is how most positions are filled. It is just easier! That is how I landed my first teaching job!

Q: But it is not easy for everyone to do that. Put themselves out there.
A: That is true. But, you all have to start somewhere. There are a lot of students who are afraid to introduce themselves. That is like opening the door. If you can’t do that, you cannot do anything else. As I said, you have to start somewhere. And more importantly, do not look at it as networking for the sake of networking. It is only about conversations! We have them every day. I will let you in on a little secret. I know it is intimidating to go out, especially when it is a different country and culture, but guess what, everyone is a bit nervous, even the outgoing ones!
So, it is not just you who is doing this for the first time. Practice! And practice more!

**Q: How it feels to be a part of the MSBAPM faculty?**

A: I believe, it has given me a little more credibility with the students, even though I only hold one credit, but it is still a part of your grade. Just kidding!

Because the course is generally in the first semester, it helps me connect with students and vice versa. This helps me understand their profiles and needs in a better way; their strengths, areas of improvement and their personalities as a whole. This eventually adds a lot of value when I put on my career advisor hat!

**Q: One thing about BAPM you would like to improve**

A: One area where I would love to see BAPM improve, and it has been the toughest to change, is “Pay it Backward.” When I got into BAPM, the alum network was not that large. But right now, I think it has become of substantial size and numbers. What I would like to see is that the students should realize that just the grades won’t do. Everyone here is brilliant, and that is why you got here. Explore this opportunity to the fullest.

There is a need to create an open and inclusive environment, so there is a flow of information from one end to another. We need to initiate that and put it into practice. A large part of this has to come from the students. It has to be a community that helps each other, nurtures lifelong friendships and eventually, adds a lot of value. It is you who will also benefit out of it. Career ambassadors are exactly that. We are moving into the direction.

**Q: What are your hobbies and interests?**

A: I run, I run, run and then run some more. I do five miles every day.

I finished my first half marathon last summer, and on the 26th of February this year, I did my first triathlon as part of a club I joined. There are different clinics every week and every last Sunday of the month, we finish a triathlon.

I also eat a lot. My husband and I are huge foodies. Anything with cheese and I love it. I love exploring new foods. Recently, started eating Indian food and it is already one of my favorites. I love Palak Paneer and for my birthday this year, Manasa got me gulab jamuns!

**Q: Tell BAPM something surprising about you that we don't know**

A: Traditionally, weddings have the bride in white. I went completely non-traditional wearing all black to my wedding.

**Clubs Corner**

**Graduate Financial Association (GFA)**

The University of Connecticut’s Graduate Finance Association (GFA) is a student-run organization that is open to all graduate students. Our mission is to prepare our members for careers in and related to finance, which will be accomplished through a series of networking activities, workshops, and educational events. Overall, the GFA seeks to enhance the Graduate School of Business experience for all its members, while focusing on the following areas of finance:

- Corporate Finance
- Investment Banking
- Private Wealth Management

**Our Values**

- **Integrity:** The GFA believes in always doing the right thing and treating all members fairly. We value ethical, honest, and respectful behavior at all times.
- **Excellence and Accountability:** The GFA promises to offer reliable and pertinent information. Our external training and workshops will provide all members with a continuous learning environment outside the
classroom. Guided by reputable faculty members and professional industry experts, members will obtain the support and guidance needed to be one step closer towards accomplishing their financial career goals.

- **Collaboration:** The GFA fosters a collaborative learning environment. Its members, faculty and those in the external network will constantly work together to better serve the University of Connecticut’s School of Business programs and its surrounding communities.

MBA’18 student, Keshav Grover is recently elected as the GFA President, and he is taking over the charge from MBA’17 student Kanika Bharadvaj.

Under Keshav’s presidency, GFA is looking to help BAPM students who want to pursue their careers in Finance domain.

Recently, GFA held a session on Analytical Consulting for Financial Services by Dr. Suresh Nair. More than 60 students attended from BAPM, MBA, and FRM programs and it was a grand success. Students got to interact with the professor to clarify their doubts and gain more information about the class.

Here is the picture from the event.

Kunja Dutta and Milind Jagre are the two BAPM students who are part of GFA’s leadership team, along with Ziqian Li from the FRM, and Yuan Hao and Nishant Gupta from UConn MBA.

This leadership team is working hard and at a constant pace to help students across programs help to get into the Finance Domain. You can check out GFA’s website at [http://gfa.business.uconn.edu](http://gfa.business.uconn.edu).

**Creative Corner – Apple Rose Pastry Recipe**

_by Anushri Dixit and Mansi Bodke_

Here’s the handy recipe!

**Prep Time:** 15 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 20-30 minutes

**Ingredients:**
- 4 puff pastry sheets  
- 1 Fresh and thinly sliced red apple  
- 2 tablespoon of Nutella (optional)  
- 3 tablespoon of freshly squeezed lime  
- 1 tablespoon of cinnamon powder  
- Powdered sugar to sprinkle

**Instructions:**

Roll out the puff pastry sheets and use a rolling pin to elongate it a little as we need it to be longer. Apply Nutella at one side (note that this is optional, you can use any fruit preserve you like preferably strawberry or apricot). Thinly slice the apple and put them in water with the lemon juice. Microwave it for 3 minutes till the slices become soft. Drain the water once done.

Place the apples along the length of the puff pastry (refer to the pictures above) and then sprinkle
cinnamon powder over them. Fold the pastry sheet into half along its length and then roll it carefully and slowly. Do not roll it too tight as it expands after baking, so for it to maintain its shape roll it loosely. Pre-heat the oven to 375-degree F and bake it for 20-30 minutes based on your oven. You can make a bunch of them and bake them together to look like a bouquet or bake them separately in a muffin tin.

Once baked, allow it to cool for 5 minutes and serve it with sprinkled powdered sugar. Start with rolling out puff pastry sheets, use a rolling pin lightly to elongate it a little bit as we need it to be longer. Make thin slices of an apple and soak it in water with the juice of a freshly squeezed lemon. Microwave it for 3 minutes so that the apple slices become soft. Drain the water after removing it from the microwave.

Apply Nutella to the puff pastry sheet.

Place the slices of apple as shown in the picture and sprinkle some cinnamon powder on it (which is optional). However, the cinnamon brings enhances the taste of the apple hence I would suggest you use it.

Fold the puff pastry sheet into half along its length.

Roll the sheet slowly along its length and voila!

Arrange them in a greased baking pan. You can make a bunch of them and make a bouquet. You can also use a muffin tin to bake them separately.

Pre-heat the oven to 375-degree F and bake it for 20-30 minutes based on your oven heating. Allow it to cool and sprinkle some powdered sugar on it.

Don’t they look stunning? Trust me; it tastes even better!! Do try it and let us know how it turns out :)

You can follow their blog at https://thebakasoo.rs.wordpress.com
And Facebook page here https://www.facebook.com/thebakasoo.rs

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2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personalized_medicine
3 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personalized_medicine
4 http://genomemag.com/what-is-personalized-medicine/#.WM595FUrLIV
5 http://genomemag.com/what-is-personalized-medicine/#.WM595FUrLIV


viii http://gfa.business.uconn.edu/about-us/