Greetings from Tusculum College School of Business and Technology!

Everyone seems to like variation, but nobody seems to like change. However, change is inevitable. This is true in business and in academics. Businesses need to listen to their customers. Academics is no different.

I believe we have two customers, our students and the employers who will then hire our graduates. We have listened and made changes based on feedback from our customers. One change, based on student feedback, was a modification of our MBA program. As part of the 10-course, 30-credit hour program, students can select two of the 10 courses based on their interest. We have even added an opportunity for students to earn a concentration in an area if they choose to do so. We are beginning by offering nine new elective offerings, which can be used towards a concentration in Human Resources, Management, Nonprofit Management, or Healthcare Administration. The redesigned program will go into effect Fall 2015.

Another change we have implemented, based on feedback from students, is the addition of an accounting concentration in our evening programs. Accounting is regularly listed as a top employment area and this concentration allows students to better prepare themselves for employment opportunities in this field.

Finally, employers are telling us that they are seeking graduates who can excel in the 4 Cs: communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. In response, we are reviewing our curriculum and assessments to emphasize these areas wherever we can. We want our graduates to be able to meet the needs of employers.

More change will be coming to Tusculum. As business people, we know that an organization cannot stand still. However, we want to practice what we teach, which is that organizations must listen to their customers. So please know that we want and seek your input. Feel free to contact me, or any of our faculty or staff, to share your thoughts and ideas.

Michael Dillon, Ph.D.
Dean of the School of Business
Upcoming Events

♦ Fall classes for GPS begin August 17, 2015.

♦ Nettie Day will be observed by the Knoxville campus on September 15 and 16. We will be going to Beardsley Farm and working for our day of service. Sign-ups are at the front desk.

♦ APA Writing Workshops will be held in Knoxville on October 13 and March 15 from 5 - 5:45 p.m.

Computer Literacy Exam

This is a FREE exam a student can take to satisfy their computer requirement. Students need to contact Carol Hill (chill@tusculum.edu) to sign up.

2015-2016 Test Dates (All tests start at 3:45 pm)

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CAREER SERVICES

♦ Knoxville Career Services office hours will be from 4-6 p.m. on most 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month. To schedule an appointment please call or email rlay@tusculum.edu or (423) 444-5105.

♦ Job postings are increasing dramatically on College Central Network, Tusculum College’s online job posting site. To view these jobs, go to the Tusculum College career services website at http://www.CollegeCentral.com/tusculum and follow the directions listed to open your student or alumni accounts.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE COMING YOUR WAY!

♦ Career Fair at the Greeneville campus in Chalmers on September 29, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

♦ Career Fair at the Knoxville campus on October 27, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

♦ Job Trek - Join Career Services for a visit to Home Depot’s corporate office in Atlanta, Georgia. Meet with Human Resources and learn about internships that may lead to a job with this company. Transportation will be provided, but meals are not included. The date has not been determined yet, but look for more information to come.

♦ A career fair will be held at the Knoxville Expo Center. This fair is a community fair and not sponsored by Tusculum College, so you may want to investigate the types of employers/jobs, which will be available at this event, prior to attending.
Arlene Gray is a Business Administration student that is excelling at both her studies and her career. She is a computer programmer at PerfectServe by day, student by night, and volunteer in her spare time.

She says her love of computers comes from her father, and her fascination with business comes from her mother, who has owned her own business for many years.

After receiving an associate’s degree in web design, and then establishing a career in the computer field doing Business Intelligence and Analytics, it only made sense for Ms. Gray to attend Tusculum College and pursue her bachelor’s degree in business administration. She says, “Having a deeper understanding of how businesses operate enhances my ability to take the data companies already have and turn it into useful decision-making information.”

Her passion lies in helping people achieve their goals. In her free time, she enjoys working with the Knoxville Entrepreneur Center to volunteer her database skills to new start-up companies. She also dedicates much of her time as the only female board member on the 5-person board for a local non-profit software conference, CodeStock.org, which is growing by leaps and bounds each year. Ms. Gray was also recently featured on WUOT radio to discuss the CodeStock conference that was held on July 10-11, 2015. (The link to her interview is here http://wuot.org/post/dialogue-codestock-2015)

She has volunteered as a regional mentor and chapter leader for the Professional Association for SQL Server for many years and has shifted her focus to CodeStock and the Knoxville Women in Technology initiative.

When she is not studying or encouraging women in technology, she enjoys riding around in her convertible, singing to music at the top of her lungs, making spreadsheets, and spending time with her family.
Alumni Spotlight - Shannon Rasnick

My wife and I are avid Bowfishing, kayakers, and raise Labrador Retrievers. If not working, most of our time is spent on or near the water. We also have two wonderful children and a grandson whom we spoil with every opportunity.

I had worked in skilled trades as an Industrial Maintenance Technician for 15 years when I decided to change my career path from technical to managerial. Within three years, I was promoted to the highest level I could achieve within my firm without a degree, and I realized that I did not know as much about management as I desired. Tusculum appealed to me because of its accelerated courses, and it would accommodate my busy schedule. I have currently been in a managerial role for 10 years and have decided to pursue my MBA with Tusculum College.

I am dedicated to my career and meeting my personal goals. This can be challenging when trying to manage school, family, and a career. Thankfully, I currently work for a corporation that promotes a family, work, and life balance.

Being a manager of the skilled trade division at SCHOTT Gemtron in Sweetwater, Tennessee has allowed me to apply and utilize the BSOM obtained in 2013 from Tusculum College.

In today’s fast-paced industries, education is a must. Seeking the next level is, and always will be, part of my goals. In my opinion, one must always have goals no matter how small or large. These achievements or milestones are important and help us develop into productive, disciplined, caring professionals.

The staff at Tusculum promotes teamwork, professionalism and teaching, which can be applied to “real world” situations. I often look back or reflect on a situation that was discussed during class or something that was stated by a professor, which has changed my opinion or the way I approach issues. In reality, Tusculum has changed the way I approach, resolve, and handle my life.

Alumni news?

We would love to hear what you have been up to lately. Please send any information you would like to share to the Office of Institutional Advancement at jbparker@tusculum.edu.
To date, Tusculum College of Graduate and Professional Studies has graduated five classes from the MBA program, and to celebrate our student’s accomplishments, we have immortalized them in the second floor hallway of the Knoxville Campus. As each class graduates, more pictures will be added.

Tusculum students work hard and go on to achieve great things.

Who will be next?

If you are interested in learning more about Tusculum College and the programs of study that we have to offer, please contact an enrollment specialist at (800) 729-0116 or go to www.tusculum.edu.
Do you ever wonder what your professors do when they aren’t preparing for, teaching and grading papers for classes? As you can tell by the following list they are busy with research endeavors, working as reviewers and representing Tusculum College at conferences all around the United States. For those articles that are already published, you can do a search to read them! The topics that are researched are as varied as our faculty!

Dr. Jack McCann has been busy this summer publishing and giving presentations.


McCann, J. & Lawrence, K. (2015, June 16). Factors impacting students’ motivation and learning strategies. 7th Annual 2015 Virtual General Education Conference at Kaplan University (June 16-18). (This will appear in conference proceedings.)


To learn more about the campaign, please visit [http://web.tusculum.edu/first/](http://web.tusculum.edu/first/)