

# Information Systems & Analytics

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Information Systems and Analytics  
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Hi Everyone,

I hope that you are all healthy and safe and weathering the storm. It has certainly been the most interesting year of my career by far. The coming semester is also playing out to be quite different than the norm as well. We are prepared for the challenges this will present.



This is an abbreviated version of our annual newsletter, but I wanted to keep in touch and inform you about some of what is going on in ISA. We have been busy moving the needle again in spite of the hand the pandemic has dealt us.

As always, please stay in touch and if you are ever in the area, be sure to let me know. Always glad to receive updates or connect with me virtually. I love to hear of your exploits.

Skip

## Enrollments Still Growing

The ISA major grew again this year from 165 to 244. Combined with the remaining IS majors and the Analytics co-majors, our number of declared ISA majors is 145 (IS) and 178 (BA) respectively. We celebrated with 51 IS and 45 BA new graduates in May. In addition to the 323 majors, we ended the year with 371 minors, 209 BA, 115 IS, and 47 Info Security.



## 2019/20 Abbreviated Covid Edition

Summer 2020  
Newsletter  
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### Faculty Rise to the Virtual Challenge

I have never been prouder of the ISA faculty than I was in March watching them collectively rise to the challenge of going to virtual delivery overnight. Miami made the decision on Tuesday afternoon that beginning the next day all classes would be delivered virtually.

While this seemed daunting on the surface, the ISA group dug in, helped each other and, based on student feedback, nailed it. I am in a position where I get to speak with many students taking our classes that are not my own students. Every opportunity I got I asked how classes were going. Universally students praised our faculty and the FSB faculty in general for continuing to deliver a solid experience and getting through necessary content to keep the sanctity of our educational process intact.

It is far from over as we have a tough fall semester with, I am sure, unforeseen pitfalls ahead of us. We learned a lot from our virtual experiences in the spring and I have no doubt that whatever the pandemic brings us in the fall, ISA faculty will continue to deliver on our commitment to quality education to our students.

### ISA Major Split - Business Analytics Major now in Place

The effort to split the two tracks of our Information Systems and Analytics major into separate majors received state approval in May. Incoming students now may choose to major in one or the other.

We are very excited to now offer a stand alone major in Business Analytics. It appears that our stakeholders are as well as we have our largest freshmen class in my time as chair. Currently the department has 30 entering students, 12 are BA, 7 IS and 11 have not indicate a preference yet. This is over 25% higher than last year's entering class which was our existing high of 23. Both majors mirror the ISA major tracks at the moment, but we already have plans envisioned for both.

#### BUSINESS ANALYTICS MAJOR

We are developing new content and techniques for the new MS in Business Analytics program that will find its way into the undergraduate curriculum. The increase in Python content and a focus on storytelling with data are both in the works. We are also pleasantly surprised at the number of combined students and envision over time integrating our BS and MS programs in additional ways.

#### INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAJOR

The most immediate plan is to leverage our experience with the Information Security Minor and build out a security track in the IS major. This would allow students to go beyond the minor in the growing space. The new track would play to our strengths and be managerial in its focus with enough technologically focused content to allow graduates to understand the situations they will face.

### MS in Business Analytics will be off and running in the fall



The new MS in Business Analytics will launch on August 17th with 23 students in the first cohort. That would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of the program's new Director, Lindsay Holden, the leadership and oversight provided by Allison Jones-Farmer and the efforts of the eight faculty members designing the new courses for the program.

The MSBA is a full time, face to face, nine month program, targeted toward anyone with an undergraduate degree (regardless of discipline) and an interest/passion for data driven decision making. Eight of the first cohort are combined (plus one) degree students finishing the masters in their fourth year.

The program consists of two stacked certificates. Fall semester, students will take a core certificate providing a base platform for doing analytics then in the spring they take a more advanced business analytics certificate that goes into big data methods, machine learning, prescriptive analytics and more. This is rounded out by a 6 credit hour experiential component involving project work for an industry client that begins in winter term and is completed in the spring semester.

### Computational Thinking Course Switching to Python

Our course in the FSB's First Year Integrated Core is switching languages from JavaScript to Python. The change is being made to expose every FSB student to a pervasive language more pertinent to all. First year students will still be exposed to thinking computationally through an algorithmic approach to problem solving, basic programming constructs, and SQL database queries in the class.

### Thank you for your Support

Last year I predicted that our internal funding for new initiatives and continued faculty development would increasingly need to come from external sources. The Covid pandemic has accelerated that need. There simply won't be adequate internal funding for ISA to continue to innovate as we have been with our curriculum and programming. Remember every little bit helps. If you want to discuss how you can help feel free to reach out to me. Here is the link to the ISA designated giving page on Miami's website.

[MAKE A GIFT TO ISA](#)

## Faculty News:

### Dr. Jyotishka Ray & Dr. Jon Michel—New Assistant Professors



Jyotishka Ray (to the left) and Jon Michel (on the right) will both join us this fall. Jyoti received his PhD in Informations Systems Management from UT Dallas in 2017 and an MS in Operations Research and Statistics from UNC Chapel Hill in 2011. Since Fall 2017 he has been an Assistant Professor at Cal State East Bay. He will be teaching our IS in the Enterprise course in the fall and Database in the spring. Jon received his Ph.D. in Econometrics from Ohio State in 2019 and an MS in Mathematics from OSU in 2013. He spent the last year working as a Data Scientist for Google in the Bay Area. He will be teaching the Principles of Analytics course.



### Dr. Maria Weese and Dr. Fadel Megahed Promoted and Granted Tenure

Maria and Fadel have been outstanding contributors as Assistant Professors. Both excel has both teachers and scholars. The mentorship they provide for our students and younger faculty do not go unnoticed. Congratulations to both on their promotion to Associate Professor and receiving tenure.



### ISA Faculty Receive FSB Junior and Senior Faculty Teaching Awards

Dr. Arthur Carvalho, The Dinesh & Ila Paliwal Innovation Chair and ISA Assistant Professor, and Dr. Allison Jones Farmer, the Van Andel Professor of Business Analytics and ISA Professor , received the annual Richard T. Smucker Teaching Excellence Awards as outstanding Junior and Senior FSB professors respectively.



### Dr. Joseph Nwankpa Receives Best Paper Award at ICIS

Joseph 's paper entitled "Structural Complexity and Data Breach Risk" won the "Best Track Paper Award in the Cyber-security, Privacy and Ethics of IS Track" at the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) held in December in Munich.

## ISA Programs' Best Of Graduates



Kara Leckinger  
Best BA Major



Julia Bragg  
Best BA Minor



Alexandra Hollister  
Best BA Minor



Cameron Devitt  
Best IS Major



Elizabeth Test  
Best IS Minor



Morganne Turk  
Best Info Sec Minor

## ISA Scholarship & Award Winners

### World Pay

Evan Jones

Amy Hu

**KPMG**

Natalie Day

Claire Galberg

### EY

Mitch Fairweather

Snigdha Porwal

Jake Swyers

Colson Voss

### ISA Advisory Bd

Ashley Lonsinger

Madeline Begalke

Akash Radhakrishnan

Kinsey Young

Jacob Zalinski

## ISA Salutes Graduates

In case you missed our virtual send off to our graduating seniors, here is a link to what was sent out in May.

[https://issuu.com/farmerschoolofbusiness/docs/isa\\_2020](https://issuu.com/farmerschoolofbusiness/docs/isa_2020)

Special shout out to Belinda for organizing and carrying the lion's share of the load on getting this pulled together to honor our graduates. Impressive given that is was done during all the pandemic chaos of the end of last semester. Thanks Belinda!!

## Other Highlights:

Many other exciting things happened, as summarized below.

- Populated and prepared to launch our new MS in Business Analytics
- Our department advisory board met both semesters and provided great insight and feedback on our curriculum directions.
- The Information Security Minor grew to 47 students.
- Our faculty helped our students organize and hold a Block-chain Hackathon in the fall and Virtual Blockchain Conference in the spring.
- We held our ninth annual ISA recruiting event in the fall
- We awarded \$22,500 in scholarships to ISA students (see above for this year's awardees.)

## Goals for 20/21:

- Execute the first year of our new MS in Business Analytics
- Double the enrollment in the MSBA for the second cohort
- Develop a strategy for an online or hybrid version of MSBA
- Organize a development campaign to preserve ISA's ability to operate and not lose stride in or ability to serve our students
- Increase Security programming options for ISA students
- Weather whatever storm the Covid pandemic throws at us and continue to serve all ISA stakeholders at a high level

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