Business students reach out to city youth

By Randy Townsend

Students at the Arthur J. Holland Middle School have been learning the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, communication, leadership and team building from Rider University business students as part of the M.O.B. (Make Opportunities Business) program.

The M.O.B. Program, founded and sponsored by Rider alumnus John Hernandez, is an after-school program designed to help inner-city youth develop both personally and vocationally through entrepreneurship and mentoring. Hernandez said he joined the program because he himself was once on the middle school students, the Rider students who served as the mentors grow from the experience as well.

“I read the mentors’ journal every week and observe the changes in the kids and how they grow from the experience,” said Hernandez. “I also observe how the mentees grow. That’s why we’re in business—to help young people become entrepreneurs.”

The mentors met the challenge of reaching 100 students per year in the program and were divided into teams led by the mentors. Each team has 12 weeks to set up their businesses. At the end of the 12 weeks, they have to present their business and their action plans to the M.O.B. Advisory Board who serve as judges. Dr. Ron Cook, professor of Entrepreneurship and Small Business at Rider who is also on the Advisory Board since the program began eight years ago, says the M.O.B. has become popular among the students at Holland Middle School and on campus.

The mentors joined their students in classes, attended special events, and helped them open businesses. Each team applied for seed money based on financial projections from their business plans. These teams provide the necessary funds to get their businesses up and running. According to Dr. Keith Dewey, advisor to the program, “the mentors learned from M.O.B. the business and the mentors are ‘two-way’.

“One of the neat things is that the mentors get to meet urban kids,” said Hernandez. “Most of the mentors are from the suburbs. They learn from each other. It’s a great learning experience.”

Hernandez believes that entrepreneurship education and mentoring “have the best chance to make a difference in the kids’ lives.”

The mentors helped the students to start businesses, develop and present business plans and income statements to judges and effectively manage their resources. Senior finance major David Guci believes that the 30 hours of intense training and 30 hours of mentoring in the program were well worth it.

“It sometimes is hard to keep the kids focused, but all pull together,” said Guci. “They start working as a team towards a common goal, so they’re getting some good experience in entrepreneurship.”

The middle school students are divided into teams based on the mentors. Hernandez said the partners in the program that Dr. Hernandez has a winning list for students to get into this program and the mentors are “two-way”.

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The M.O.B. has become popular among the mentors and students. According to Dewey, “M.O.B. has become popular in the program and the mentors are ‘two-way’.”

Business students Bruce Keefe (left), Matt Guttman (right) and Adrienne Katsaras (far right) at the M.O.B. program.

Tips for a smooth class registration

By Haley Ross

Layout and Design Manager

There are horror stories of students who missed out on graduating within four years because they failed to select the right classes.

If you’re among those who have absolutely no idea what classes to take, here is help.

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9. If you are among those who have absolutely no idea what classes to take, here is help.
10. Go to the registrar and use or visit Registrar’s website to have your schedule signed and approved.

The registrar is located at the bottom floor of Fine Arts.

SECURITY BRIEFS

Security guards observed two males attempting to get onto campus by electric fence along the Kenney parking lot. Lawrence Police Department (LPD) patrol officers were on scene and verified that the two suspects were students on campus and did not belong to them. The suspects had illegal narcotics and alcohol in their possession. The narcotics were found in their car which was parked nearby off campus. Letters were mailed to the parents of both suspects

Triple the time, triple the trouble

An unknown suspect broke into a room in Keener and vanished the room by jamming the doorlock, tampering with one of the computers and misplacing the room in the hope that it’s been operating since February. The amount of damage occurred reported on Monday, April 6. LPD service was offered and declined, but later requested. The LPD is actively investigating the incident.

Where’s the fire?

A female staff member called Security because an unknown suspect maliciously tried to light fire extinguishers in Conover Hall on Monday, April 6. The fire extinguisher had either been partially or fully discharged, but the rest of the extinguishers in the building were checked and fine. The damaged cost for replacing the extinguishers was estimated to be $300.

The Safety & Security Department would like to thank the students who worked hard in preparing for the big events of last weekend, which included events that students displayed as part of the academic prowess class, such as senior Lauren Beavers, an aceretty major student. “You just have to know what you are and take advantage of that.”

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A-Fence

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