

Unique curriculum aids grad students

By Charlie Olsen

A new business program specializing in both high echelon management and leadership will be available to graduate students this spring.

According to Interim Dean Larry Newman, the Executive MBA program will pair both academic and practical expertise, providing a different kind of learning experience than most business schools do.

"In the second year of the program, the students will have an 'Executive-in-Residence' sitting in on their class, evaluating their work," Newman said.

If the students are giving a

presentation for their finance class, then an executive from the field of finance will be there to offer his or her input, along with the professor's academic input.

Another aspect of the program that distinguishes it from other school's curricula is its length. The Rider program is 21 months long and meets every Saturday. Over the course of the nearly two years that the students spend in the program, they will have taken 17 courses (or 51 credits). The students will also attend five seminars targeted at specific executive skills, including listening, leadership and various management

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- Interim Dean of Business, Larry Newman

skills.

An international trip to either Asia or Eastern Europe is included in the cost of the program, which is about \$50,000. According to the program brochure, that amount covers tuition, books, food and fees.

To enroll in the course, prospective students need at least five years working experience, three of which must have been in a management or supervisory

capacity. They also need to have at least a 550 on their GMAT and an undergraduate degree with a grade-point average of 3.0 or greater, among other requirements.

The type of student the program is catered toward is "someone whose career has gotten going, not at top-level management, but who is clearly on

See 'MBA' page 4

Academic program success among officers

By Cara Latham & Jeff Frankel

The classes taught by Rider professors at the New Jersey Department of Corrections' (NJDOC) Central Office in Trenton have been a good experience for the department, according to Dr. Doug Gerardi, the director of the Office of Policy and Planning for the NJDOC.

Gerardi said that a lot of work has to be done by a student in preparation to be enrolled in the cohort, which is open to all NJDOC employees, civilians, as well as officers. Some officers' schedules are not appropriate and it is hard for them to attend class. The list of people interested in the program funneled down to the current 20, simply because of this fact and that handling of such information as high school transcripts and other information from past colleges attended is a difficult process.

Although online classes are an easier possibility, the students chose the other route.

"They've had the option of doing a course online, but instead they chose to do it in a classroom," said Gerardi. "That

just shows the dedication of our staff."

The two classes taught this semester include Race, Class and Gender in America, taught by Dr. Frank Rusciano, professor of the Political Science Department, and Expository Writing with Dr. Glenn Goldberg, an adjunct instructor of the English Department. There are currently about 20 people enrolled, half of whom are DOC officers and half civilians.

The corrections officers are dedicated to completing courses to better their professionalism, said Gerardi. Initially the program has worked in trimesters, which means that the students also take classes during the summer.

"The current employees realize training and education is essential for advancement and to ensure their level of professionalism," he said. "They're very eager."

Even with their busy lives, the students still make time to attend the classes.

"These people work 40 hour weeks and still take time out of their personal lives to ensure they're the best in the field," he added.

Matthew Schuman, of the

office of public information at the NJDOC said that NJDOC commissioner Devon Brown wanted to make education among the staff more prominent in the officers' training when he took the position in April 2002.

"Commissioner Devon Brown wanted to make education a hallmark of his administration," said Schuman, "[This program] is helping others to realize the vision of the commissioner."

The department started out reimbursing students for about 33 percent of their tuition, according to Gerardi.

"Recently, the commissioner was instrumental in getting that raised to 50 percent," said Gerardi. "This is an added incentive to students."

Rider's professors have been well received by the class, who have come from a variety of academic backgrounds.

"There has been very successful feedback from [the officers]," said Gerardi. "They're delighted with the level of instruction and with the professors."

He said that it has been interesting to see Rider working hand-in-hand with the department and that the students were

appreciative of Rider's efforts.

"Rider not only meets criteria for the degrees but also for our needs," said Gerardi. "Rider came forward in providing the service to us, and the rest is history."

Gerardi was content with the professors especially from Rider who come to the Central Office, particularly in the Harris Building, to teach the classes, as opposed to offering classes on the Lawrenceville campus, which they usually do.

"They're sensitive to the needs of the students," said Gerardi. "Rider faculty has been sensitive to state holidays and they offer alternate dates to meet. The students are appreciative of that."

One of the officers in Rusciano's class confirmed the DOC officers' appreciation.

"We like [Dr. Rusciano]," he said. "He's very passionate about politics."

Schuman said he thinks the program will continue to be successful.

"The program is going to thrive and will continue once word of mouth gets around," said Schuman. "People are going to find out how successful it is and they will want to be a part of it."

'DUCKS'

Continued from page 1

dangerous.

Fortunately, the bag did not contain a bomb. Instead it contained a duck, which was eventually released. The duck was walking around the classroom until one of the students picked it up and brought it outside. The student who brought the duck outside had help from two other students, Lindsey Thomas and Joseph Hovsepian, who were walking by the building when this incident occurred. Thomas and Hovsepian saw five individuals

dressed in black under the classroom window who quickly ran away in all different directions. They also heard yelling coming from the classroom. After witnessing this, they decided to go to the window to see what was happening.

"When we looked in, there were desks knocked over, papers on the floor and people out of their chairs," Thomas said. "Still confused, we looked around and saw a duck walking around."

Thomas and Hovsepian then decided to help bring the duck outside, which continued to flap its wings when in the student's arms. It did not try to bite or hurt the students

in any way. In fact, Thomas said that she was petting the duck. Thomas also said that she decided to help rescue the duck because she felt bad for it.

"I was surprised that anyone would risk harming a duck for a practical joke," she said.

Fortunately, no one was seriously injured. However, some students did receive minor bruises from bumping into desks. The duck was also unharmed.

"The duck was not physically hurt, but I'm sure the experience was not fun for him," Thomas jokingly said.

Amid this confusion, Professor Griffin was able to call Security, who responded

to the call in about 20 minutes. The Security officer who inspected the situation believed that this was simply a fraternity initiation prank.

Correction

In the Nov. 19 issue, the story entitled, "Pres of ZTA is Fortune's friend," should have ended:

"It was a dream come true." (Lara Lindner)

Contributing reporting to this article was done by Candice Grieco.

SECURITY BRIEFS

Medieval Times

Two male students in Olson were charged with weapons violations when a female staff member found two swords and one dagger in their room when she was conducting safety checks of the rooms on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving break. A similar incident was also reported that Wednesday when a male staff member found a sword, mace and a dagger in the room of another male resident in Kroner while doing room checks. He also received weapons violations charges.

Up in Smoke

Six people, including two female visitors, one female resident and three male residents, were caught smoking marijuana and drinking in a room belonging to a male resident in Lincoln. On Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 2 a.m., a female staff member reported an odor of marijuana coming from one of the rooms in the hallway. Security arrived, determined the source of the odor, and arrived at the room. The door was propped and marijuana stems, seeds, leaf fragments and rolling paper were observed in plain view on one of the dressers. Open containers of alcohol were also noticed.

Lawrence Police Department (LPD) service was requested and while Security was waiting for them to arrive, one suspect fled the room but left his Rider ID behind. The room occupant was placed under arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia. Security conducted a University search of the room which yielded empty baggies for distributing marijuana and other remnants of marijuana and paraphernalia were recovered and handed over to the LPD. The visitors were given Persona Non Grata (PNG) letters. The other residents were charged with campus violations for possession of drugs and paraphernalia.

Curb Your Enthusiasm

An LPD officer observed a male resident student run his car up on a curb on Campus Drive and followed him to Complex Drive near Lincoln. The officer pulled him over, determined he had been drinking and issued him a sobriety test, which the student failed. He was taken into custody and charged with campus violations.

Information provided by the Director of Safety and Security, Vickie Weaver.