



Vivian Armor

Entrepreneurship is not new to UMBC. In fact, it was through innovation, dedication and rallying the surrounding community together that this university was founded just 45 years ago. Yet this still young university is becoming known internationally as a place where creativity abounds, innovative ideas are born and our students are making up the next generation of professionals that are changing the world. With great excitement, I am pleased to be able to announce the launch of the new Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor. This minor will gather faculty and students together who are

dedicated to the ideas guiding the spirit of entrepreneurship already deep within our campus' foundation.

This would not be possible without the UMBC faculty who continue to impress me with their willingness to help our students grow and take on new challenges. I look forward to working with you as we bring the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Minor to every discipline on campus and work to instill these values in our classrooms.

-Vivian Armor, Director of the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship

NEW ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION MINOR ANNOUNCED

In the spirit of entrepreneurship itself, the Alex. Brown Center is pleased to announce a new minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation this fall. Innovation is one of the main concepts behind entrepreneurship, and it was only because of the dedication, innovation and involvement of the Kauffman Working Group that the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship can present such an important and timely offering to UMBC students. Faculty Fellow Kris Lindenmeyer, an integral player in bringing the minor to campus, feels that "innovation and entrepreneurship is a way to enhance quality of life for faculty and students."

Stemming from the idea that everyone on campus, from faculty to students, can be entrepreneurs, the committee presenting this minor made sure that the curriculum fits into the current university's structure. This new minor will not be housed under any one major, allowing any student to declare it and any faculty member to incorporate it in their curriculum. Faculty Fellow Bill LaCourse says the initial spark for the minor was to "infuse entrepreneurship into the university, looking for methodology and pathways that don't disrupt the system." He goes on to explain that everyone at UMBC is an entrepreneur – everyone here is in the "business of education," from learning and teaching to grant writing and research.

Thanks to three years of tireless dedication and a \$1.3 million grant awarded to UMBC by the Kauffman Foundation, not only can the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship offer this new minor to students, but it can expand course offerings to create an even richer entrepreneurship experience with a widened selection of classes. Classes ranging from chemistry to economics and from communication to business, the entrepreneurial concept is playing an even larger role in almost every discipline across campus.

To complete the minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, students must complete 18 credits of ENTR designated courses. Two core courses are required: ENTR 200: Introduction to Entrepreneurship and ENTR 201: The Entrepreneurial Mindset. The remaining 12 elective credits can be selected from a variety of 300-400 level ENTR approved courses in any discipline. An approved internship in Entrepreneurship or Social Innovation can also be included as part of the Minor.

UMBC faculty and students are known internationally for breaking new ground in science, technology and the arts and humanities, and since the award of the Kauffman Campuses Initiative grant in 2007, the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship has stressed that entrepreneurship applies to any field that is creating innovation. Luckily, the new Entrepreneurship and Innovation Minor will be able to bring the faculty and classes that stress the concepts of entrepreneurship under one "roof." LaCourse asks, "Should we not provide (students) with the tools and understanding for what it takes to have the future you want? Entrepreneurship is our competitive edge with the rest of the world. Let them produce something that changes the world!"



Faculty Fellow Bill LaCourse

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH SCORE

The Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship and UMBC's Career Services Center have combined forces to provide additional support to our entrepreneurial students. SCORE is a non-profit association dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship education and the formation and growth of small business. SCORE has a valuable network of over 90 experienced, well networked business people in the Baltimore area who are willing and available to provide mentoring and guidance to UMBC students.

Although the new Entrepreneurship Minor covers every student looking to gain experience in building a business, this new partnership will be especially valuable to those students ready to launch their new businesses. SCORE counselors are involved with the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship and current students can set up meetings with SCORE counselors on campus by contacting Center Director, Vivian Armor. Currently there are ten students meeting and working with SCORE.

CNMS ENTREPRENEURSHIP INSTITUTE HELD IN JANUARY

While UMBC students were busy in the intense January mini-mester, a collection of faculty, staff and keynote speakers were gathered together to learn how to infuse entrepreneurial concepts and skills into current and upcoming courses. The CNMS Entrepreneurship Institute was the fourth Faculty Institute to be held in the past 4 years. The purpose of the Institutes has been to expose faculty to the concepts of entrepreneurship and explore ways to infuse entrepreneurial thinking and skills into existing or new courses. Almost 50 faculty, visitors and students attended the recent Institute. This year, the Institute took a new direction, inviting attendees from more than just one college and focusing on themes of entrepreneurship across disciplines. The Institute's expanded mission this year: to bring entrepreneurship campus-wide.

This two day workshop focused on showing faculty the path to entrepreneurship by addressing creativity and innovation, stressing that the entrepreneurial spirit can be brought into almost all disciplines. Day 1 revolved around inspirational speakers and experts from outside the University, such as Dr. Chic Thompson and Dr. Surya Raghu, CEO of Advanced Fluidics. Day 2 involved faculty, student and alumni presentations to provide ideas and foster discussion regarding how to best infuse entrepreneurial concepts into courses. Faculty Fellow Bill LaCourse reports that one inspired faculty member exclaimed after leaving the institute, "I have to change my whole class!" He hopes that faculty now see their classes as a place to bring in the spirit of entrepreneurship.



Faculty Share Ideas during Institute

By bringing together past attendees with current CNMS staff, and extending an open invitation to all members on campus, LaCourse hopes that the "interdisciplinary" format of the new minor will be reflected in the ideas and inspiration resulting from the Institute. "We all can have an idea and sit back thinking that's cool, or we can get the students to say, 'I'm going to do this,'" says LaCourse on the motivation for the Institute.

As a result of the CNMS Institute, ten Curriculum Innovation Grants were awarded to faculty to revise or develop courses infused with entrepreneurial concepts. These courses will be offered beginning this fall and next spring.

Based on the success of the Institute, LaCourse will deliver Part II of the Institute next spring. He will sponsor an Entrepreneurship Day, where everyone involved in all the previous Faculty Institutes can come together to share successes and not-so-successful stories of incorporating the themes into their classrooms. He says, "[UMBC students] are on the verge of being professionals. The hope is we will give them an early launch."

NEW STUDENT CLUB – THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SOCIETY

This spring, a new club joined the ranks of over 200 officially recognized clubs at UMBC. The UMBC Entrepreneurial Society was set up by students for students to attract entrepreneurs at UMBC, foster the growth of the entire collective and provide club members with a way to network ideas and experience. The new club gives students a place to bounce ideas off each other involving individual and collective projects, learn from each other's experiences and provide a positive place for swapping ideas and getting team members on board.

With over 20 members, the club hopes to keep growing in the fall with the declaration of the new Entrepreneurship and Innovation Minor. The Facebook page, run by club CEO Nathaniel Buechler '13, is full of announcements of upcoming entrepreneurship events, advice for starting your own business and provides a forum for the club's members to post articles they find useful in the news. Buechler says, "There wasn't anything like this on campus. We want to focus on student networking and personal growth." The group will continue to work closely with the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship, compiling a list of student businesses and seeking opportunities to get involved on campus.

NEW ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSES TO BE TAUGHT THIS FALL

Two new entrepreneurship courses will be introduced this fall. Both courses will give students a good entrepreneurial mind set and skill set that will be invaluable to them as they head into their own disciplines.



UMBC Alumnus Gib Mason '95

The Entrepreneurial Mindset, taught by guest instructor and serial entrepreneur Gib Mason, '95, will give students the tools necessary to apply entrepreneurial thinking to their studies, work and life. Through case studies, texts, projects, magazines and blogs, students will explore what it means to think like an entrepreneur, and how they can establish and leverage an entrepreneurial mindset to achieve career success. Mason says, "I am a very passionate person.

My hope is that I can instill in the folks that take the class a passion behind one's ideas and desires." He is excited to return to a campus he knows very well and to "unlock the entrepreneurship in all of us."

Faculty Fellow Bill LaCourse will teach Creativity, Innovation, and Invention, a new First Year Seminar that will explore the invention process from idea to product development. Designed for students of all majors, the purpose of the course is to inspire creativity, motivate students to invent, and supply them with the minimum expertise necessary to design, market and protect an invention. LaCourse was inspired to create the course by, he says, "pure selfishness. I love the idea of creating. If I can spark [the students] into wanting to learn something, I don't have to teach anymore. Like history or Civil War buffs, [I hope] these students will generate their own knowledge base." Students will work together to develop ideas and then will work in teams to perform the tasks necessary to bring the product to market. At the end of the semester, students will present to a panel of external evaluators with the aim of selling their product to likely investors. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers such as Wendy Martin, director of UMBC's Office of Technology Development, and Alex. Brown Center director Vivian Armor.

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