Globe-trotting professor extends teaching beyond campus classroom

For Jim Sundali, associate professor of managerial sciences in the University’s College of Business, teaching duties extend far beyond the edge of campus, the end of the workday, and the limits of the fall and spring semesters.

In addition to teaching a section of strategic management and policy on campus during summer session mini-term, Sundali will travel to the University of London in June, where he will teach an advanced seminar in management as part of the College’s four-week Global Business: 2009 International Summer Study in London program, offered in partnership with the University’s Extended Studies.

“For business students and professors, London is the center of the universe,” Sundali says. “It’s the financial capital of the world, and the program will offer students valuable exposure to global business practices.”

The program focuses on global management, technology and economic policy. Student participants are required to enroll in two classes taught by College of Business faculty to earn six credits upon successful completion. Select afternoons will be designated for corporate and governmental visits with the balance available for student-directed cultural activities.

“Jim Sundali has been very active in recruiting students for the Summer Study in London program,” says Jim McClenahan, director of management and executive programs for Extended Studies. “We feel very fortunate to have faculty of his caliber joining us—we couldn’t do this without him. The London program will give an international perspective to the University’s business students, while providing an opportunity for working students to earn the credits required to complete their business degrees in a relatively short period of time over the summer.”

According to McClenahan, Sundali has also been a key player in student recruitment and in forging relationships with members of the northern Nevada and international business communities as an instructor for the Advanced Management Program and International Executive Development Program. McClenahan says Sundali’s decade-long relationship with Extended Studies has contributed much to these programs’ success.

“The classes he teaches are among our most popular,” McClenahan says. “He is very well respected in the business community and brings a high level of quality to our programs.”

Sundali has 10 years of experience teaching bargaining and negotiation as part of the Advanced Management Program, which he says offers working professionals—many of whom have not taken a course on campus in years—an opportunity to return to the University and to learn about the psychology and biases behind how decisions are made.

Sundali also taught students living in the Carson City/Douglas County area as an instructor for the College of Business’ MBA Cohort Program, through which 16 students have earned MBAs from the University without having to commute to Reno for classes.

“The Minden MBA was a great program for all involved,” Sundali says. “It was a strong cohort and an interesting group of people.”

Since joining the University faculty in 2000, Sundali has earned awards and honors including the 2008 College of Business Graduate Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2006 B.J. Fuller College of Business Undergraduate Teaching Award. He earned a Ph.D. in management and policy with a minor in finance from the University of Arizona and an MBA from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. In addition, Sundali volunteers time to serve on a community investment panel for United Way.

Sundali’s research interests include judgment and decision-making, game theory, experimental economics and behavioral finance. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses including business strategy and policy, bargaining and negotiation, organizations and the natural environment, managerial decision making, corporate finance, and managerial and leadership insights from film and literature, and has published nearly 20 journal articles and chapters in professional publications.


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