

# Uihlein/Spitzer Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship

## IMPACT REPORT

For the period January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008



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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Uihlein/Spitzer Entrepreneurship Endowment continues to have a significant impact on the mindset and curriculum at MSOE. During the period of this report, several milestones have been achieved as MSOE continues to grow an entrepreneurial spirit among its students, faculty and alumni. Achievements include:

- Establishing the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship provided an identifiable hub for the coordination of entrepreneurial-focused activities. Individuals responsible for the leadership and coordination of center's efforts include:
  - **G. Woodrow Adkins**, Uihlein/Spitzer Endowed Chair for Entrepreneurship
  - **Dr. Steven C. Bialek**, Associate Professor and Chairman, Rader School of Business
  - **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing**; Associate Professor, Program Director MIS, and Kern Foundation Fellow
  - **Larry Schmedeman**, Professor and Program Director International Business
  - **Dr. Charles Tritt**, Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, and Kern Foundation Fellow
- Developing and teaching three, one-credit courses in entrepreneurship has been an important link to the MSOE curriculum. The series of courses have seen growing enrollment over the period. Originally offered as electives, the courses have become required in several curricula including Biomedical Engineering, Management Information Systems, International Business and Business Management.
- Leveraging the initiatives emanating from a project funded by the Kern Entrepreneurial Education Network (KEEN) has expanded the impact of the Uihlein/Spitzer Entrepreneurship Endowment. The combined effect of the KEEN project and the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship has led to a burgeoning array of activities and events specific to entrepreneurship, examples include; (a) student and faculty participation in regional and national conferences, (b) guest speakers leading discussion on entrepreneurship, (c) competitive events including an annual business plan competition and a multi-university entrepreneur challenge, and (d) involvement in local and national leadership of entrepreneurial initiatives.

While the accomplishments and impact over the period of this report have been significant, the outlook for entrepreneurship at MSOE is even brighter. Several engineering programs will integrate entrepreneur-focus classes into their curricula. Several others will be integrating entrepreneurial topics into existing courses. Reaching into all sectors of the MSOE curriculum provides a platform for sustainability that significantly enhances the impact of the event-based accomplishments to date.

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## INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship continues to be a strategic initiative at MSOE, adding value to the education experienced by students as well as enhancing the professional growth of faculty. Since establishing the Uihlein/Spitzer Entrepreneurship Endowment and with the appointment of G. Woodrow Adkins as the Uihlein/Spitzer Chair for Entrepreneurship, MSOE has made significant progress toward creating an entrepreneurial mindset among our students, faculty and alumni. The impact of MSOE's efforts is substantiated by the increase in depth, breadth and number of activities occurring over the period.

In addition to helping create a mindset, very intentional efforts have focused on integrating entrepreneurship into the engineering curriculum. Entrepreneurship "modules" that are easily integrated into existing courses, one-credit elective courses related to entrepreneurial topics, and the creation of a new three-credit required course for computer engineers all mark significant accomplishments.

A significant complement was added to the entrepreneurship initiatives when MSOE received its first funding from the Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN). The network provides institutions with access to resources for building quality entrepreneurship education programs that engage engineering and technical students in hands-on learning. KEEN provided financial and other resources to MSOE for the development of entrepreneurship curricula, modules, and extracurricular activities, business plan competition, speaker series, student entrepreneurship club, and seminars. The KEEN funds have been used to leverage resources available from the Uihlein/Spitzer Entrepreneurship Endowment, greatly enhancing the impact of the endowment and the successes experienced.

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## COURSE ENROLLMENT

Enrollment in MSOE's entrepreneurship courses during the period was generally strong. Each is offered as a one-credit course available at various times during an academic year. Professors Larry Schmedeman and G. Woodrow Adkins, Uihlein/Spitzer Endowed Chair for Entrepreneurship developed the courses four years ago and continue to be instrumental in teaching. Enrollment represents a mix of engineering and business majors at MSOE.

	Sp07, Fa07, Wi07	Sp08, Fa08, Wi08
MS-3425 Entrepreneurship - An Overview	23	37
MS-3427 Entrepreneurial Business Plans	16	15
MS-3429 Entrepreneurial Finance	5	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>52</b>

During the academic year 2009-2010, MSOE will offer a new three-credit course; MS-3423 Innovation and Business Markets. The new course will be required of all Computer Engineering majors and will satisfy an elective requirement for several other engineering programs.

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## ACTIVITY DETAILS

Details of the numerous programs, events and activities related to entrepreneurship at MSOE are presented below. The summaries are presented in reverse chronological order, with the most recent activities first.

### October – December 2008

**National Leadership Conference.** MSOE's Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) chapter was nationally recognized at the 2008 Fall National Leadership Conference for the largest local chapter delegation. Nineteen students from the MSOE Business Leaders Association (MBLA) traveled to the two-day conference held in Minneapolis, MN in November, 2008. Chapter president, Brian Kujawa (BUS '10) accepted the award on behalf of the chapter. MSOE students attended workshops on building personal skills to use in business settings including effective leadership skills, business etiquette, and goal setting. **Kristin Shebesta, adjunct assistant professor,** is MBLA's advisor and also attended the conference. Costs associated for attendance were covered with fund raising conducted by the MBLA and funds from the **Uihlein/Spitzer Entrepreneurship Endowment.**

**MSOE Represented at Collegiate Entrepreneurs Conference.** **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing,** associate professor and program director MIS, led a group of 14 MSOE students to the national Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) conference held at the McCormick Place in Chicago, November 6-8, 2008. Dr. Blessing secured a grant of \$650.00 from the Coleman Foundation of Chicago to help defray the costs associated with attending the conference. The remaining costs were covered by the Uihlein/Spitzer Entrepreneurship Endowment.

**BizStarts Leadership Named.** **G. Woodrow Adkins,** Chair of the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship has been selected as a Board and Governing Council member of BizStarts Milwaukee. BizStarts Milwaukee is a new non-profit organization dedicated to helping create a vibrant, innovative and prosperous entrepreneurial business climate in the M7 region by inspiring, nurturing, connecting and celebrating entrepreneurs and their companies. A major effort of the organization is the BizLearn College Initiative; a plan to stimulate, champion, coordinate and develop more college-based entrepreneurial courses, programs and experiences in the region. The consortium established with several other college level institutions in the region includes MSOE represented by **Professor Adkins** and **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing** of the Rader School of Business.

**Governor's Business Plan Competition Judges.** For the third consecutive year, **Professor Larry Schmedeman** and **Dr. Steven Bialek** were selected as judges for the Wisconsin Governor's Business Plan Competition. Since its inception in 2004, more than 1,300 entries have been received and nearly \$850,000 in cash and in-kind prizes has been awarded. The contest's Grand Prize is worth \$50,000 in cash and services.

**Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship Banquet.** Professor Larry Schmedeman and Niketa Schmedeman ('98) accompanied several MSOE students to the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Harvest of Hope Banquet sponsored by the Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship (CTE). The event included a keynote address by attorney Ulice Payne, Jr. CTE's mission is to research, develop, implement and promote programs for young people ages 9-21, which utilize the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, business and financial literacy to provide opportunities for minority youth and families to participate in the free market. Larry Schmedeman serves on CTE's board of directors.

**Community-Based Entrepreneur Mentoring Efforts.** Professor Larry Schmedeman, Dr. Michael Payne, Dr. Jeff Blessing, and MSOE Regent John Torinus organized and participated in a breakfast meeting for the Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship (CTE). The meeting was co-sponsored by CTE and MSOE's Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship with the purpose to promote involvement in CTE and its minority, youth focus.

**MSOE's Entrepreneurship Efforts Highlighted at Conference.** Dr. Jeffrey Blessing presented the results of MSOE's engineering entrepreneurship education efforts at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Kern Entrepreneurial Education Network (KEEN) conference held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. His presentation featured the synergies that have evolved at MSOE between the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship and the KEEN grant project at MSOE.

**ASEE Conference Presentation.** Dr. Jeffrey Blessing presented the results of MSOE's Great Race Innovation Chase, Entrepreneur Competition, at the Frontiers in Education conference held in Saratoga Springs, NY, Oct. 22-25, 2008. The conference was a collaborative effort between the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and the IEEE Computer Society.

**Big Screen Movie in the Classroom.** Thanks to quick thinking by Dr. Jeff Blessing and help from Nick Seidler, student activities assistant director, Dr. Chuck Tritt can now show clips from the new movie, "Flash of Genius," during his Ethics and Entrepreneurship presentation. Dr. Tritt prepared the module to encourage entrepreneurial thinking among engineering students. Blessing sat in on Tritt's recent presentation and previewed "Flash of Genius" that evening. Blessing noted a scene in which an engineering professor talks to his students about ethics. Seeing the fit between the scene and Tritt's module, Blessing worked with Seidler to get permission for Tritt to use the scene in his presentation.

**Guest Speaker Addresses Entrepreneurship.** MSOE's student Entrepreneur's Club arranged for Dr. Dennis Wanless, adjunct professor, to speak at a campus event in September. Dr. Wanless presented "From Steinways to Segways" the story of his entrepreneurial experiences since leaving MSOE as full-time professor in 1998. The talk featured the five most important people one needs in business. Dr. Wanless returned to MSOE in fall as an adjunct professor with the Rader School of Business. Dr. Jeffrey Blessing is advisor to the MSOE Entrepreneur's Club that is supported by the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Rader School of Business.

## July – September 2008

**Focus on Business 2008.** The Rader School of Business held its third annual “Focus on Business” summer program for high school students. During the weeklong experience held in July 2008, students learn about business fundamentals and strategies. They also compete in teams using a computer simulation in entrepreneurship to run a business they create. **Kristin Shebesta**, adjunct assistant professor, coordinated the program and was lead instructor. **Dr. Steven Bialek**, chair of the Rader School of Business; **Mindy Davies**, adjunct lecturer; Sharyn Warren, adjunct lecturer & assistant director CCSD; and Clyde “Ray” Allen, MSOE alumnus, were instructors during the program.

**Second Annual High School Entrepreneur Competition.** **Dr. Steven C. Bialek**, department chair, Rader School of Business, **Kristin Shebesta**, adjunct assistant professor and **Dr. Michael Payne**, assistant professor hosted MSOE’s second Entrepreneur & Business Strategy (EBS) competition for high school students. Five teams of students used a computer simulation to run a business. A team from Kenosha Indian Trail Academy finished in first place. The event was sponsored by the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship, Rader School of Business and MSOE’s Enrollment Management Office.

**Entrepreneurship Advisory Board.** In September, **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing** attended the advisory board meeting of the **Keen Entrepreneurial Education Network** sponsored by the **Kern Family Foundation**. The board oversees and assesses the engineering entrepreneurship programs at 22 private universities across the U.S. Blessing directs MSOE’s KEEN initiatives and is a key contributor to the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship. Academic year 2008-2009 marks the third consecutive year of KEEN efforts at MSOE with the foundation providing \$100,000 in project support over the period.

## April – June 2008

**MSOE Students Excel in State Business Competitions.** Strong performance marked MSOE’s Rader School of Business second year of competition at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Wisconsin Phi Beta Lambda / Future Business Leaders of America (PBL/FLBA) Conference held April 11-12, 2008 in Wisconsin Dells. MSOE students from several majors won first place in eight events and finished in second or third place in four other categories. In total, students received awards in 12 of the 18 events in which they entered. The competitions included both written examinations and judged demonstrations in business, entrepreneurship and information technology subjects.

In addition to the individual and team competitions, MSOE finished in third place for most outstanding state chapter of PBL/FLBA. Of the 12 MSOE competitors, ten qualified for the 2008 National PBL Business Competition scheduled for June 21-24, 2008 in Atlanta, Ga.

More than 100 college students attended the conference. The 12 students representing MSOE are members of MSOE's Business Leaders Association (MBLA). They were joined by students from

several Wisconsin business schools including UW-Madison, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Whitewater, UW-Green Bay and Ripon College. The Rader School of Business and MBLA have been affiliated with Phi Beta Lambda / Future Business Leaders of America since 2006. Membership in MBLA is open to all majors, with support provided by the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Rader School of Business. Advisors include Professor **Carol Mannino** and **Dr. Steven Bialek**.

**MSOE Business Plan Competition.** On May 23, 2008, The Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship held the Second Annual MSOE Business Plan Competition organized by **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing**, and Professor **Larry Schmedeman**, program director, International Business,

### **January – March 2008**

**MSOE Holds Entrepreneurial Competition.** On March 28, 2008, **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing** and **Dr. Chuck Tritt** led a group of 60 MSOE students, faculty, staff and alumni, along with 20 representatives from Holz, Chevrolet, OnStar, GM and others, in the running of the Great Race Innovation Chase. The event, which was streamed live to the web at [www.InnovationChase.com](http://www.InnovationChase.com), was a one-day challenge among teams of students, faculty and staff to come up with innovative solutions to problems posed to the teams by the industry sponsors; while instilling the value of multidisciplinary team-oriented approaches to solving problems in an entrepreneurial setting. The event was supported by the Holz Foundation, Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship, KEEN Grant, and the Rader School of Business. The event was held again on April 12 and included eight college teams representing MSOE, Illinois Institute of Technology, Bradley University, Lawrence Tech, Valparaiso, Kettering, Ohio Northern and Case Western Reserve.

**High School Entrepreneur Competition.** **Dr. Steven C. Bialek**, department chair, Rader School of Business, and **Professor G. Woodrow Adkins**, Uihlein/Spitzer Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship hosted the inaugural Entrepreneur & Business Strategy (EBS) competition for high school students. Five teams of students used a computer simulation to run a business. A team from Kenosha Indian Trail Academy finished in first place. The EBS competition is scheduled again for October 2008.

**Entrepreneur Planning Conference.** On January 6-8, 2008, **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing** organized and led a team of MSOE faculty and staff in attendance at the Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN) conference at Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona. The team consisted of **Dr. Eric Durant**, program director for Computer Engineering; **Dr. Bill Farrow**, program director for Mechanical Engineering; **Prof. Bob Lemke** representing the Architectural Engineering and Construction Management department; and **Mr. Armund Janto**, Vice President and Treasurer for MSOE. Results from the conference are being used to incorporate the ideals of innovation and entrepreneurship into MSOE's academic programs.

**Entrepreneurial Collaborations Explored.** **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing** organized and attended meetings with other faculty members at Marquette University and Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design to

discuss collaborative efforts for teaching innovation and entrepreneurship during March, 2008. Dr. Blessing also served as a judge in the Marquette-MIAD Design Show on March 6, 2008 held at MIAD.

### **October – December 2007**

**Entrepreneurship Club Speakers – Roy Reiman and John Koss.** On Oct. 26, 2007, **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing**, along with the Entrepreneurship Club, hosted a talk by Roy Reiman, founder of Reiman Publications, on the basic principles of entrepreneurship and building an organization. Mr. Reiman has built a publishing powerhouse in Greendale that includes 14 magazines such as *Country Woman*, *Taste of Home* and *Birds and Blooms*. In 1998, Reiman sold Reiman Publications to an investor group for \$640 million.

On Dec. 10, 2007, Dr. Blessing, along with the Entrepreneurship Club, hosted a talk by John Koss, chairman and founder of Koss Corporation and regent-emeritus of MSOE, on the complications of innovation and the difficulties involved in a technology start-up. Mr. Koss created the market for stereo headphones and revolutionized the way people listen and enjoy music. MSOE's Entrepreneurship Club is supported by the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Rader School of Business.

**Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization Conference.** **Dr. Charles Tritt**, associate professor, Biomedical Engineering, accompanied 11 MSOE undergraduate students to the national conference of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO). The 2007 CEO National Conference brought together 1,300 participants from 135 Universities around the country (the largest number of universities ever represented at the national conference). Over 60 speakers participated in this two and a half day conference held in November 2007 in Chicago. Students learned about crafting a small business, bootstrap financing, accounting and legal issues, and starting and growing a campus-based CEO organization. Participation in the conference was supported by the Kern Entrepreneurial Education Network grant and the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship.

**Future Business Leaders of America – Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference.** A team of ten students from MSOE Business Leaders Association attended the FBLA-PBL National Fall Leadership Conference in Cincinnati in November 2007. The student team was accompanied by **Professor Ken Dobbs**, adjunct assistant professor. The conference provided students an opportunity to expand their leadership skills and knowledge and served as a preparation for state and national business competitions that will begin in April 2008. Support for conference attendees was provided by the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Rader School of Business.

**Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship.** **Professor Larry Schmedeman** accompanied four MSOE students and one alumnae at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Harvest of Hope Celebration, November 29, 2007, sponsored by the Milwaukee Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship (CTE). The missions of CTE is to research, develop, implement and promote programs for young people ages 9-21, which utilize the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, business and financial literacy to provide opportunities for youth

and families to participate in the free market. Professor Schmedeman is a member of CTE's board of directors. Professor Schmedeman is the lead instructor of courses emanating from the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship.

### **July – September 2007**

**Grant Extends Reach of Entrepreneurship Effort.** Dr. Jeffrey Blessing was named chairman of the KEEN Advisory Board at the Kern Family Foundation on July 1, 2007. The board oversees and assesses the engineering entrepreneurship programs at 18 private universities across the U.S. On September 4, 2007 MSOE received through the work of Dr. Jeffrey Blessing, a \$50,000 KEEN Phase II grant to continue the engineering entrepreneurship efforts. The grant will expand MSOE's entrepreneurship efforts into the coming years.

**German Exchange Students Study Entrepreneurship.** The Rader School of Business revised the curriculum to include entrepreneur coursework for German students studying International Business. Students coming to MSOE from the University of Applied Sciences in Lubeck, German were required to complete to one-credit courses on entrepreneurship and business plan development as part of their MSOE International Business program.

### **April – June 2007**

**MSOE Among Business Competition Winners.** First-year competitor, MSOE's Rader School of Business team won first place in five of seven competitions during the Wisconsin Future Business Leaders of America/Phi Beta Lambda State Conference, prevailing against students from eight UW's and Marquette. The MSOE team advanced to the national competition held in Chicago this June. Each of the MSOE competitors received support from Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship

**Business Plan Winners Announced.** The Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship announced the winners of the Senior Engineering Design Business Plan Competition, including a tie for first place among two biomedical engineering design teams. The following student teams were chosen to receive awards:

**1st Place team (tie) - Award \$1,250**

Team/Project Name: Fitness Identification Tracking (FIT) System  
Major: Biomedical Engineering

**1st Place team (tie) - Award \$1,250**

Team/Project Name: Instrumented Walker for Gait Analysis  
Major: Biomedical Engineering

**2nd Place team - Award \$750**

Team/Project Name: Vehicle Radio Recorder (RR 2-11)

Major: Electrical Engineering

**3rd Place team - \$500**

Team/Project Name: Portable Electric Leaf Blower

Major: Electrical Engineering

The Senior Engineering Design Business Plan Competition was sponsored by the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship and supported by MSOE's Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network project grant. Dr. John Gassert, Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Department, served as the grant's principal investigator, while Dr. **Jeffrey Blessing**, Associate Professor, Rader School of Business, served as Kern Fellow for the project. Professor **Larry Schmedeman**, Program Director, International Business served as competition coordinator. Judges for the competition included: **G. Woodrow Adkins**, Uihlein-Spitzer Chair of Entrepreneurship, MSOE Rader School of Business; Dr. **Steven Bialek**, Interim Department Chair, MSOE Rader School of Business; Dr. Tom Bray, MSOE Dean of Applied; Mr. Michael Erwin, President and Co-owner of Tailored Label Products, Inc. Mr. Armund Janto, MSOE Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**National Presentation on Entrepreneurship - Hawaii.** Dr. **Jeffrey Blessing** presented a paper entitled "*Integrating Entrepreneurship into an Already Ambitious Curricula through a Collaboration of Business and Engineering*" at the annual conference of the American Society for Engineering Education and Exposition, June 24-27, 2007 - Honolulu, Hawaii. Blessing's paper explained the efforts undertaken and underscored the success experienced in the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship and with the support of MSOE's Kern Entrepreneurial Education Network grant.

**MSOE Represented at Entrepreneur Conference.** Several faculty from the Rader School of Business participated in the Wisconsin Entrepreneur Conference, June 12-13, 2007. Representing MSOE were **G. Woodrow Adkins**, Uihlein-Spitzer Chair of Entrepreneurship; Professor **Larry Schmedeman**, Program Director, International Business, **Dr. Jeffrey Blessing**, Program Director, Management Information Systems, **Dr. Steven Bialek**, Interim Department Chair, and **Dave Neuman**, Lecturer. In addition to their general participation, Schmedeman and Bialek served as judges for the Governor's Business Plan Competition. The competition drew entries from more than 100 entrepreneurs throughout the state. Dave Neuman was a finalist in the competition and finished in third place in the business services division for his business plan: *SiteHound Inspection Software*.

**Entrepreneur Speaks at MSOE.** The MSOE Entrepreneurs Club meeting on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> featured Mark Floyd, Chairman of Tekelec and Co-Founder of Efficient Networks. Tekelec is a high-performance computer network applications company that is accelerating the transition to IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) networks for service providers around the globe. Efficient Networks is a DSL-broadband networking company that was acquired by Siemens in April, 2001 for \$1.7 billion in cash, representing one of the largest telecommunication mergers and acquisitions in 2001.

**Associate Professor Carol Mannino** was instrumental in bringing Mr. Floyd to campus. Support for

the event came from the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Rader School of Business.

### **January – March 2007**

**Community Presence Increased.** Professor Larry Schmedeman has been named a member of the board of directors for the Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship (CTE) in Milwaukee. This mission of CTE is to research, develop, implement and promote programs for young people living in urban Milwaukee. The Center's efforts seek to utilize the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, business and financial literacy to provide opportunities for youth and families to participate in the free market. Professor Schmedeman's involvement further expands his role related to entrepreneurship in the Rader School of Business. Along with **G. Woodrow Adkins**, Uihlein/Spitzer Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship, Professor Schmedeman developed and teach three undergraduate courses in entrepreneurship; MS-3425 Overview of Entrepreneurship, MS-3427 Entrepreneurial Business Plans, and MS-3429 Entrepreneurial Finance.

**Business Plan Judge.** Dr. Steven Bialek served as a judge for Wisconsin's Governor's Business Plan Contest (BPC), co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Technology Council, Wisconsin Innovation Network and the Wisconsin Angel Network. The BPC received 270 Phase I entries, of which 50 were selected by BPC judges, advanced to Phase 2. Business plans were submitted in four categories; information technology, business services, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences. Winners are expected to be announced later this spring.

**Entrepreneur Quest.** An interdisciplinary team of MSOE engineering and business students placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Chicago Entrepreneurs Quest, held February 16<sup>th</sup> in Chicago's "Loop" business district. Dr. Jeffrey Blessing advised the runner-up team of Jeramey Jannene (MIS; President's Scholar), Lee Miller (EE), Tad Mazik (MIS), Brian Head (BE) and Sam Nobienksy (MIS) in a business and design competition against seven other teams from Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), DePaul University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**MSOE Among Inventors and Innovators.** Dr. Jeffrey Blessing represented MSOE at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) conference held March 21-24 in Tampa, Florida. NCIIA is the administrating body for the Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN) grant and Dr. Blessing is a Kern Fellow for Entrepreneurship at MSOE and a key member of the Uihlein/Spitzer Center for Entrepreneurship.

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