

Powerful Connections

Bank Technology Security School: An Investment in Stronger Safeguards

In a time of unprecedented attacks against financial institutions and customer concern about information security, banks can't afford to become victims of fraud.

In 2014, GSB introduced the Bank Technology Security School in response to the growing demands on financial institutions and their information security professionals. Industry-specific instruction focuses on the specific steps banks must take to safeguard their most sensitive information and protect themselves from financial loss and lasting reputational damage.

The school will be offered for a second time Oct. 11-16 at the Fluno Center on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

Both relative newcomers and veteran IT managers will benefit from the mix of lectures, small group discussions and interactive exercises, beginning with a solid foundation in the business of banking.

A team of seven consultants and industry experts teach the course. The curriculum covers, but is not limited to, information security management; security breaches, laws and regulations; virtualization; network defense; mobile and wireless security



defense; BYOD defense; ethical web application hacking; and network penetration testing.

Early registration is encouraged, as a waiting list is expected. Those who have already attended the Bank Technology Management School may opt to join the program in progress on Monday at a reduced rate. See www.gsb.org/is/Technology-Security-Overview.php for more information on curriculum, instructors and more. ■

Financial Managers School Offers Fresh Perspectives

Financial managers continue to see their roles expand, requiring greater attention to analysis, planning and processes.

GSB's Financial Managers School, Sept. 13-18 at the Fluno Center in Madison, provides an opportunity for banking professionals to refresh their knowledge, refine their practices and network with experienced peers.

Lead instructor Tom Farin, president & CEO of Farin & Associates, Inc., has more than three decades of experience as a consultant and educator. Throughout the course, he and other faculty members engage students in small group discussions and computer simulations to cover a comprehensive list of subjects geared specifically toward community bankers. Attendees will:

- Identify major financial strengths and weaknesses of institutions;
- Examine interest rate risk profiles;
- Evaluate issues relating to base strategy forecasts;



- Analyze loan and investment portfolios;
- Make pricing decisions; and
- Formulate and communicate effective strategies to improve an institution's overall profitability.

Class sizes are limited, and early registration is encouraged. Financial managers can earn up to 44 continuing professional education credits at the school, which is jointly sponsored by GSB and the Financial Managers Society. See www.gsb.org/fms/Financial-Managers-overview.php for more information or to register. ■

Alumni Profile: Dave Randa

Hands down, Dave Randa's favorite class at the Graduate School of Banking was BankSim – so when he was invited back as an instructor, he eagerly returned to class.

Randa is director of commercial banking at Castle Bank in northern Illinois, part of a team expanding the bank's reach in the Fox Valley. A graduate of Coe College with a degree in finance and economics, Randa has spent nearly his entire 13-year banking career at the community bank. During that time, he's worked on the retail side, led the marketing and product management division, and managed a team of commercial credit analysts.

When Randa first came to the bank, it was an independently run, family-owned bank founded in 1856. Then-CEO John W. Castle's search for a buyer for the bank led him to Bruce Lauritzen, the current chief executive officer of Lauritzen Corp. as well as chairman of First National Bank of Omaha and several other banking companies. Today Castle Bank is a division of First National Bank of Omaha, retaining its name and community bank character.

Randa first came to GSB in 2005. The intercession projects helped him get into the "nuts and bolts of the bank," requiring him to interact with division heads and ask important questions of them. "I always had access to these people, but the projects are a very good excuse to get into the foundation of why we do things the way we do them," he said. "That was invaluable, and it gives you a background you can't replace."

At the same time, Randa began dating Tammy Cutler, a GSB student he'd met freshman year. The two were married in 2009 and today they have two sons, ages 4 and 2. Tammy is a vice president at U.S. Bank and serves on the GSB Banker Advisory Board.

"We're banking nerds, I guess you could say," Randa said. Their involvement meant they were both back on campus in the summer of 2014 – and in his new role as instructor Randa "jumped in with two feet from day one." As both a student and instructor, he enjoys the BankSim experience because it feels like real life.

"You have five other personalities, very similar to a bank's executive team. Everybody has an opinion and everybody is right in their own minds," he said. "You're bringing them together to make decisions, both for the section of the bank they're running and for the bank as a whole."

Now he is there as a sounding board, making sure that students understand the possible outcomes of their decisions. "That's the part that is really fun for me to help teach, to make sure that students grasp BankSim," he said.



*David and Tammy Randa Family
Dave Randa is Director, Commercial Banking at
Castle Bank, Northern Illinois Fox Valley*

Ongoing education has been important to Randa throughout his career. After graduating from GSB, he earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame.

Even now, Randa says he remains a student of community banking. "I think there's a lot of strength, and a really neat story for banks that are able to maintain their independence," he said. "They're able to deliver a better product on a more consistent basis." ■