Financial Managers School Enrollment Deadline is August 17

Designed by experienced CFOs especially for financial managers, this week-long school, coming up September 18-23, in Madison, showcases best practices and provides financial managers the tools to build a solid foundation in asset/liability management.

An integrated case study is used throughout the curriculum to 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 the institution’s overall profitability.

CFOs and others in senior management actively involved in the financial management responsibilities as well as financial managers who have day-to-day experience with asset/liability management, investments, budgeting and reporting activities will benefit from this in-depth peer and process immersion in asset/liability management are encourage to enroll in this exceptional program.

GSB Excitedly Preparing for 2016 Session That Starts Sunday

The faculty and staff of the Graduate School of Banking are excitedly wrapping up the final touches for the to the 2016 session! We look forward to welcoming approximately 600 bankers to campus on Sunday. It’s an exciting time at GSB! The staff recently celebrated strong enrollments with a lunch outing, complete with ice cream and a carousel ride at Madison’s iconic Ella’s Deli – because it’s fun to work with terrific people!
Alumni Spotlight: Harold Miles

Newbie Banker Fast-Tracks Career and Life

Harold Miles, president/CEO of Bank of Advance, Advance, Missouri, and GSB alum, was recently elected chairman of the Missouri Bankers Association. Miles began GSB in 1989 and completed the program in 1991. He charges the program not only with preparing him to assume his role as president and CEO, but in also helping to shape him into the leader he is today.

Miles, who at the age of 28 in 1992 became the youngest president in the bank’s history, says his predecessor had attended GSB the program and was very complimentary about how it prepared him, so he confidently followed in his footsteps.

“I had never really had that type of experience before,” he says. “In addition to networking with other bankers, who were mostly all a lot older than I was and with much more experience, being able to talk to those people outside of the class and get their experiences was beneficial.”

Miles began his banking career by working summers at the family owned and operated bank during his high school and college years. A 1985 graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, he came into the bank full time as loan officer. Knowing that the bank’s legacy was in his hands, he also immersed himself in compliance and marketing. Miles continued to develop and learn various areas of the bank, but knew that he needed much more industry information before he undertook his role.

“GSB gave me a wide range of educational experiences,” he says. “It wasn’t focused on any specific banking area. It was global and gave some operational experience, some investment and some asset liability management (ALM), which was one of the bigger things you really didn’t get anywhere else. It was good to have that training.”

He praises the Bank Management Simulation as a great opportunity for the students to not only see the decisions made, but to grasp the consequences of the decisions.

“I was impressed with the analytics they provided us,” he recalls. “We [Bank of Advance] were, and still are to a large degree, a character and relationship lender; but GSB really gave me the tools I needed to crunch numbers and dive deep into commercial lending.”

Equally valuable—and he says the most enjoyable aspect of the program—was meeting bankers from all over the upper Midwest and getting to know them and learn about their experiences.

“I got to be friends with a handful of guys who were on my floor,” he says. “So I took away not only banking knowledge, but some acquaintances that became friends. If I needed to ask someone a question, I felt comfortable giving them a call. It was good to have resources available that I didn’t have before I attended the school.”

Miles admits that while it was a bit challenging managing the correspondence work while operating a bank, he reaped great benefits beyond the industry knowledge he gained.

“I did learn that when you’re confronted with having to balance your work along with this educational opportunity, you learn to organize and be prepared,” he says. “It was a great experience; I learned that when you have to organize and be in preparation mode, you can do it. Looking back, I wish I had some of those skills now. It seems like when you’re pressed to do something you do it, but when you’re not, you become a little complacent.”

Miles also acknowledges that in addition to helping him as his role as president/CEO, his education is instrumental in his new role as chairman of the Missouri Bankers Association.

“At GSB, I was exposed to a wide array of topics,” He says. “It prepared me to be able to talk with fellow bankers on a broader scale and have some degree of understanding about what they’re talking about, which is important as you’re going around the state talking to them. You want to be able to have them convey to you what some of their concerns are and how we as an association can help them with those challenges or concerns.”

It is this commitment to the industry that also drives his goals for the association. He aims to unite all banks, regardless of size, to overcome the regulatory and political hurdles the industry as a whole now faces.

“There’s no doubt we [banks] have a lot of differences, but I think we have more in common than what differentiates us,” he says. “My goal would be that we speak together as one voice for those areas of

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Bank Technology Security School - Real World, Hands On Learning for IT Security

The Graduate School of Banking is pleased to provide an exceptional one-week school designed especially for information security professionals in banking. A hands-on, workshop style format allows students to learn from nationally recognized experts and features a rigorous curriculum that covers not only the latest in IT security but also the business of banking. In addition to exceptional peer networking and spending time with talented colleagues from across the country and around the world, participants learn:

• Information security law and regulation
• Management strategies to leverage people, process and technology to mitigate risk
• Virtualization
• Future of deploying hardware in the IT environment
• Mobile and wireless security defense
• Network penetration and testing
• Ethical web hacking and digital forensics

Alumni of the Graduate School of Banking or GSB Bank Technology Management School have the option to bypass the business of banking curriculum -- although are welcome to attend the full school for an engaging review. This option is available to alumni only.

Space is limited in this popular school and early application is strongly encouraged.

Bank Technology Security School
October 23-28, 2016
Fluno Center for Executive Education
Madison, WI
REGISTER NOW

common interest. While we do have some differences, I think we just need to lay those aside and work together as opposed to making this a big bank versus small bank issue.”

Although Miles is passionate about his professional goals, he also values what little free time he is able to carve out. He enjoys the serenity of his 60-acre farm and tending to his cattle, golfing, skiing in the winter and vacationing at the beach in the summer. Additionally, he and his wife of almost 25 years, Paula, enjoy traveling with their 18-year-old son Creighton and 20-year-old daughter, Grayson.

Both Creighton and Grayson have worked summers at the Bank of Advance for the last few years and have shown varying degrees of interest in banking. Creighton will be a freshman studying engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology Rolla, Missouri, but has indicated banking may be a possibility down the road. Meanwhile, Grayson, who is a junior studying banking and finance at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in Oxford Miss., hopes to join the family business after graduation. And Miles couldn’t be prouder of them.

“They’re both good workers; so it’s fun to watch them interact with coworkers and just develop their skills,” he says.

Is GSB possibly in their futures?

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