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New MBA Director

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The University of Dayton has named a new MBA program director as it prepares to add the entire program online this fall.

John Gentner will begin his dual appointment as MBA director and lecturer May 16. Gentner has taught at the University of Dayton since 2004 as a lecturer and executive in residence in the School of Business Administration's management and marketing department, and he has led the MBA capstone program since 2011.

"I'm honored to have been selected as the MBA director at the University of Dayton. Being a graduate of the program, I know firsthand how beneficial the experience can be from the learner's perspective," Gentner said. "In addition, having developed and delivered the content for our two capstone courses over the previous three years, I've watched our students hone and apply their critical and strategic thinking skills as they worked to solve real-world business challenges for numerous companies in the greater Dayton area. I am excited to have this opportunity to grow our program of distinction as we navigate the rapidly changing landscape of higher education."

Prior to his tenure at the University, Gentner worked 16 years at Fifth Third Bank in various roles, including vice president of institutional investments for Fifth Third Securities, Inc.

He has a bachelor's degree in management from Capital University, and an MBA from the University of Dayton.

Gentner will continue to teach MBA courses and lead the capstone program, which pairs teams of students with local businesses to solve a business need. He will also be tasked with increasing enrollment of local, working professionals and will be part of a team to implement the new online program this fall, said Harvey Enns, associate dean of graduate programs.

Over the last decade, the MBA program has seen an increase in enrollment from international students and undergraduates participating in a five-year program to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees, Enns said. Like many programs across the country, it has also seen a decrease in domestic enrollment.

"The job of the new director is going to be quite challenging, not only managing these three diverse student populations but also helping with the transition to the online program," Enns said. "John has experience in business and sales, he has taught business courses, he has built a network of local business partners, and he has his MBA from the University of Dayton. He brings a perfect combination of skills and experience to lead this transition and recruit students."

The University of Dayton began offering a Master of Business Administration degree program more than 50 years ago. It is currently a 30-credit hour program and graduates about 150 students per year. The program will continue to be offered on campus in addition to the online component.

For more information about the MBA program, visit the related link.

For more information, contact Cameron Fullam, assistant director of media relations, at 937-229-3256 or fullam@udayton.edu.