Within the Division of Management and Entrepreneurship, the Human Resource Management curriculum has been certified as being in compliance with the Society for Human Resource Management core curriculum guidelines, and the Price College program will be so designated on the SHRM web page. By graduating from a SHRM-approved curriculum, students have an advantage in the job market. This achievement is due primarily to Craig Russell’s, professor of management efforts for this major.

Frances Ayres, has been named the W.K. Newton Chair in Accounting – a position dedicated to the support of the individual holding the School of Accounting director role. The chair was designated by W.K. Newton’s son to honor his father’s years of service to OU. Newton came to the university in 1922 to assist in the fledgling department of accounting, which consisted of one room in the Administration Building on the North Oval. He was named department chair in 1939, serving until his death in 1955. Dean Ken Evans says, “It is indeed fitting for Fran to hold the Newton Chair. Her outstanding service to the Steed School of Accounting, the college as a whole and the entire university community embody the tradition of dedication exemplified by Dr. Newton.”


Traci Carte, associate professor of MIS; Al Schwarzkopf, associate professor of MIS; and Tina Wang, second-year doctoral student, presented their paper, “The Impact of Technology on Emergent Leadership Behaviors and Perceptions,” at the International Conference on Information Systems in St. Louis this past December. ICIS is the premier professional meeting in the IS field and provides access to the highest-caliber scholarship in the IS discipline. In their paper, Carte, Schwarzkopf and Wang investigate how men and women engage in emergent leadership online. They further focused on whether male and female leaders were perceived differently by their teammates. Existing studies have found that women engage in more relational leadership and men in more task-oriented leadership, and that emergent leaders who ignore these expectations are not typically positively perceived. In the current study, technology helped level the playing field for women, enabling them to engage in both task and relational emergent leadership behavior and be perceived positively by their teammates while doing it.

Yi Zhou, assistant professor in finance, and her coauthors, Hao Wang and Hao Zhou, presented the paper “Credit Default Swap Spreads and Variance Risk Premia” at numerous universities and conferences worldwide in 2010. They find that firm-level variance risk premium, estimated as the difference between model-free option-implied and expected variances, has a prominent explanatory power for credit spreads in the presence of market-level and firm-level risk control variables identified in the existing literature. Such a predictability complements that of the leading state variable-leverage ratio and strengthens significantly with lower firm credit rating, longer credit contract maturity and model-free implied variance. They provide further evidence that: (1) variance risk premium has a cleaner systematic component and Granger-causes implied and expected variances, (2) the cross-section of firms’ variance risk premia seem to price the market variance risk correctly, and (3) a structural model with stochastic volatility can reproduce the predictability pattern of variance risk premia for credit spreads. The paper thus breaks new ground in linking the systematic variance risk and the systematic risk missing in the credit-risk models.
Chris Knapp, McLaughlin Chair in Business Ethics, and Carol Knapp, assistant professor of accounting, presented a paper titled “Machiavellian Accounting at Its Worst: The Parmalat Finanziaria Fraud” in November at the 22nd Annual Asian-Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues, held in Brisbane, Australia. Parmalat Finanziaria, an Italian firm that was one of the world’s largest food processors, made international headlines in late 2003 when its top executives admitted that the $5 billion in cash reported on the company’s corporate balance sheet did not exist. Because Parmalat accounted for 1.5 percent of Italy’s annual GDP, the company’s collapse had a much larger impact on the Italian economy than the Enron, Lehman Brothers or WorldCom debacles in the United States. This instructional case examines a wide range of accounting and auditing issues posed by the Parmalat fraud as well as legal liability issues facing auditors of multinational companies. The Parmalat case will be included in the upcoming ninth edition of Chris Knapp’s auditing textbook, Contemporary Auditing: Real Issues and Cases.

Daniel Ostas, James G. Harlow Jr. Chair in Business Ethics and professor of legal studies, has an article forthcoming in the American University International Law Review. The article, “Comparative Efficiency in International Sales Law,” is co-authored with Larry DiMatteo. They use economic criteria to assess the efficiency of select provisions of the United Nations Convention for the International Sales of Goods. The article begins with a survey of economic principles as applied to contract law. These principles are then used to assess the decision to adopt civil law, to follow common law, or to draft alternative provisions unique to the CISG. The analysis illuminates the structure and choices incumbent in the CISG. It also illustrates the usefulness of economic analysis of law in comparative law settings.

Laku Chidambaram and doctoral student JoAnne Lim (who has accepted a faculty position in the School of Knowledge Economy and Management, France) coauthored a paper that was presented at the 2011 Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, titled “A Longitudinal Comparison of Leader-Follower Relationships Between High and Low Performing Self-Managed Work Teams in Virtual Settings.” They examined the influence of emergent leaders’ behaviors on their followers’ behaviors in high- and low-performing virtual teams over time. Their results indicated that in high-performing virtual teams, followers engaged in more leadership behaviors of their own over time. Neither the virtualness nor the behaviors of their leaders influenced followers’ leadership behaviors in these high-performing teams. In contrast, in low-performing virtual teams, leaders played an important role in facilitating followers’ leadership behaviors. In these teams, over time, followers responded to their leaders’ behaviors by engaging in similar behaviors – something that was dysfunctional for team performance. Their findings suggest that mimicking the task behaviors of emergent leaders who are virtual is not necessarily a formula for successful team performance, especially in self-managed work teams. Instead, as shown by the high-performing teams, behaviors that are self-initiated and autonomous – regardless of the leaders’ behaviors or virtualness – are what lead to success.
Jefferson Powell had an idea for a program that would complement existing resources available to Price College students that help them navigate through their academic careers. Powell, president of the Student Business Association, wanted to create a student-to-student mentoring program.

In September 2010, he presented the concept to a very receptive Dean Ken Evans. Powell got to work, and at the beginning of the spring 2011 semester launched the Price College Student Mentor program. “My brother benefitted as both a mentee and mentor in the College of Engineering’s student mentoring program. I thought a similar program could be implemented in Price College,” Powell explains. “My main motivation is to give students who might be more willing to approach people closer to their own age another resource to make their Price College experience more productive and positive.”

Through the program, freshmen and sophomores are matched with upperclass students who have completed an orientation process and can provide information and guidance on.