

To: Students Registered for BADM 710 – Managerial Finance
Fall 2009

From: Angeline M. Lavin, Ph.D., CFA
Professor of Finance and MBA and MPA Program Director

Subject: Welcome to BADM 710

Date: July 2009

Welcome to Managerial Finance in the Beacom School of Business Graduate Business Programs at the University of South Dakota. I am pleased that we will be spending the fall semester together as we discuss many aspects of finance and its importance to good business decisions. Managerial Finance (BADM 710) is a required core MBA course. My name is Angeline Lavin, and I am a professor of Finance and the Director of the MBA and MPA Programs. I am a native of Vermillion, SD and obtained my undergraduate degree in business from USD in 1993 and then went on to pursue my MBA and PhD at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduating in 1997. I also hold the CFA (Chartered Financial Designation), which I received in 2000. I recently celebrated the completion of my twelfth year of teaching at USD! I enjoy being actively involved in the financial community. I recently finished my five year term as a member of the South Dakota Investment Council, which oversees the management of the State of South Dakota's \$10 billion in retirement and trust fund assets, and I recently joined the Board of Directors of Wellmark South Dakota, Inc. I also serve on the Sioux Falls Firefighters' Pension Board and the Sioux Falls Community Foundation Investment Management Committee.

BADM 710 is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 31. Final exams are scheduled for the week of December 14-18, 2009. The last page of the syllabus provides a weekly schedule for the course. There will be weekly homework assignments and case discussions throughout the course to motivate you to keep up with the material each week.

Specific information about the course can be found in the tentative syllabus which is attached to this e-mail. The syllabus contains several items, highlighted in yellow, which you should take care of before the semester begins. As you may know, Desire2Learn (D2L) is our course technology software for delivery of online courses at USD. Please note the information in the syllabus about obtaining a USD e-mail account (if you do not have one) and accessing D2L. You will not actually be able to get into the BADM 710 course in D2L until classes start on August 31, but it is still a good idea to make sure you have your D2L access set up.

Each week during the semester, there will be something due. The syllabus outlines the course specifics. I would estimate that you should expect to spend at least 12-15 hours per week on this course, attending class, reading the text and notes, working on problems, and reading and contemplating cases in order to be successful. You will definitely need to do the homework and practice the problems to be a success in this course!

You can always get in touch with me through D2L e-mail or at my USD e-mail address (Angeline.Lavin@usd.edu). My USD telephone number is 605-677-5566, but I check e-mail much more frequently than voice mail!

**Here is a list of a few items that you will want to take care of well before classes begin on August 31
More detail is provided in the syllabus.**

1. **Course Materials** – Please review the syllabus for details about course materials that are required for the course. The course text and custom case book are both available as hard copies or e-books. ThomsonNOW/CengageNOW is also required for the homework portion of the course. Please refer to the syllabus for detailed ordering instructions. PLEASE DO NOT ORDER YOUR BOOKS FOR THIS COURSE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE SYLLABUS. The USD Barnes and Noble Bookstore assures me that you will have the opportunity to select either the hard copy text book or e-book when you use www.whywaitforbooks.com. If you accidentally order both the hard copy and the e-book, they understand that you do not need both and will default to sending only the hard copy text book. If you have questions, please contact Joshua at 605.677.6291.

You will also need a financial calculator. **You will need all of these materials by August 31, the day that classes begin!**

2. **USD E-mail Account** - You need a USD e-mail account and password to access this course. New students who do not have an email account should go to www.usd.edu/accounts/pickup/index.cfm to create an account. If you have an active account but cannot remember your username or password, please contact the USD Help Desk at 605.677.5028 or 1-877-225-0027 or helpdesk@usd.edu. The Help Desk is also available to assist you with any problems that you have in accessing D2L.

3. **Desire2Learn**– Please see the detailed instructions in the syllabus.

4. **Financial Calculator** – Purchase a financial calculator, preferably a TI BA-II Plus. More information is available on the syllabus. Barnes and Noble at USD should have this calculator, and you should also be able to find it online through Office Max, Office Depot, Staple, Wal-Mart, etc.

5. **Student Homepage or Profile**– Create your own Student Homepage or Profile in D2L. This is due on Sept. 4th, but if you have created a homepage for a course in D2L previously, you will only need to update it!

6. **Elluminate** – The USD Helpdesk will send you a password and Login to use with Elluminate, if you do not already have one. They will likely do this the week of August 24. Please watch for it and save it!

Any student not actively participating in the course by September 2nd, 2009 will be dropped by the instructor.

Welcome to BADM 710! It is my goal to provide an online course that will help each student to gain a solid understanding of the importance of finance throughout business enterprises. As a student you will be expected to complete readings, homework assignments, and case analyses as well as interact with me and other students in the class. I look forward to a productive and interesting semester! Please let me know if you have any questions at all.