

GSB students present their work

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A group of students from the Graduate School of Business has recognized the University's efforts to lesson its environmental footprint and, in order to improve upon this mission even further, focused their research project on recycling. Recently recognized at the 47th annual North American Management Society/MBAA International Conference in Chicago on March 23, their presentation is entitled "Recycling Initiatives at Two Urban Universities" and thoroughly examines the struggles of our University and makes recommendations for improvement.

The graduate students involved in this project include Birger Buesching, Niyati Mehta, Jeff Roberts, and Stephanie Szoko. Zdenek Vrbka, a student of a Czech exchange program from Masaryk University, was also involved in the plan. They were enrolled in the Fall 2010 Organizational Change and Development course, taught by Assistant Provost and Director of Faculty Administration Anne H. Reilly, PhD.

"I [designed] the group project assignment so that students had to choose as their example of an organizational change some kind of sustainability initiative at an organization," explains Reilly. "This particular group chose to focus on one of the many sustainability initiatives at Loyola."

Because several of the members of this particular group were international students, they chose to create a comparison between Loyola's efforts and the efforts of Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. Vrbka, one of the students, actually hails from this University, which allowed the group greater access to information about this particular institution.

The students worked diligently to collect data from a wide range of sources, including university records and publications, observations, surveys, and interviews with faculty and administrators. When analyzing the data, these students examined the proposed objectives of the recycling initiatives at both universities, responses of key stakeholders, progress achieved to date, and recommendations for improvement. Lastly, the results were considered in the context of the overall strategy for sustainability of each university.

"I think one of the biggest lessons that these students learned was, at Masaryk, a lot of the initiatives were coming bottom-up, driven by students, whereas a lot of what we're doing at Loyola is being mandated by upper administration," says Reilly.

These students became involved in the North American Management Society/MBAA International Conference by the prompting of their teacher. "The students did such a good job on their project and their conclusions were so interesting and they had been so careful with their data collection that I thought we could get it into an academic conference, and that's indeed what happened," Reilly says.

If you would like more information on this student project or the Organizational Change and Development course, e-mail Anne Reilly at areilly@luc.edu.

Odkaz: <http://blogs.luc.edu/ilweekly/2011/04/20/gsb-students-present-their-work/?date>



Pictured (left to right): Jeff Roberts, Anne Reilly, Niyati Mehta, Birger Buesching, and Stephanie Szoko