

DBU PROFESSOR BECOMES FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Dr. Dale Sims, professor of management information systems, recently returned from the Baltic nation of Latvia, where he engaged Latvian university students for five months through the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Fulbright has sent thousands of American professors overseas and brought in foreign professors from far-off places. Sims considered being selected for the world's foremost faculty-exchange program as a great responsibility.

"It was up to me to be the U.S. presence in this city," explained Sims. "I could do that by being a good professor, a good guest citizen, and by helping people see a living, breathing embodiment of all that is good about the United States—our generosity, our courage, our faith, our skills, our intelligence, our love of freedom, and our love for people."

Sims spoke at Stockholm Institute of Economics in Latvia's capital city, Riga, and lectured before the Latvian National Teachers Conference. He also taught two webpage design courses at Ventspils Augstskola College and consulted with the college on their website, online pedagogy, and graduate information technology program.

The American business professor's relationship to the Baltic nation stretches back to 1996, when Latvian student Jekabs Bikis came to study at DBU. "I took Principles




of Computer Science with Dr. Sims, but I learned a lot more than just computer science," said Jekabs, who now teaches business at DBU himself. He was enthusiastic to learn about his former professor's immersion in Latvian life, especially that Sims joined the respected Ventspils City Choir. "Singing is part of our cultural heritage," Bikis explained. "Someone told him Americans can't sing, so he just stood up and sang for them. Then, they invited him to join their choir."

Bridging cultural differences is one of Fulbright's founding purposes. "I think the benefit goes both

ways," described Sims. "It helps Americans see the true situation in the countries they visit. It also helps people in other countries see that Americans do not always behave certain ways."

Latvia's modern history is tumultuous, its territory caught in the midst of two world wars. But since the breakup of the Soviet Union, Latvia has been transitioning to a liberal economy, which today boasts one of Europe's highest growth rates. "Latvia is new to freedom and democracy," said Sims. "They have made great progress in the last 15 years, and they will make great progress in the future."

Sims' Latvian students are already applying the lessons they learned from their American professor. Jekabs Bikis has adopted Sims' personal style to his own teaching technique. "I try to be real with students so they can connect with the professor," he explained. "But I still don't do it as eloquently as Dr. Sims." 

NEW ARRIVALS

Jerry '93 and Tina **Barnwell**
Brennan Wayne Barnwell and
Reegan Ainsley Barnwell
June 6, 2006

Michael '97 and Amanda **Spell**
Sydney Taylor Spell
May 22, 2006

Shawn '00 and **Kendra '99**
(Day) **Nelson**
Abigail Grace Nelson
October 7, 2005

Luke '01 and **Erin '99**
(Williamson) **Benton**
Jackson Bryant Benton
May 8, 2006

Stan '02 and **Lauren '03**
(Brown) **Britton**
Noah Bennett Britton
February 14, 2006

Jude and **Kimberly '02**
(Stokey) **Fernandes**
Grace Christine Fernandes
July 11, 2005

Garey and **Shannon '04 Houston**
Kathryn Helen Houston
March 28, 2006

IN MEMORIAM

Loyce Janell (Phillips)
Cervantes ('75)
June 2, 2006

Louis Franklin Canright ('76)
June 9, 2006

Vicki Wright Franks ('86)
May 17, 2006

Jean Robertson ('88)
April 21, 2006

Yolanda Myers ('90)
June 26, 2006

Please send alumni updates to:
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Make your plans now to attend Homecoming 2006, which will include the Alumni Banquet and Homecoming Patriot Celebration, in addition to special gatherings for classes celebrating their anniversaries.

Also, be sure to pack the stands for the Patriot Basketball Team 2006-07 home opener against Howard Payne University on Saturday, November 18.

DON'T MISS OUT!!!