



# Harrisburg University M.S. Project Management Summer 2017 Newsletter

## Program Mission Statement:

The Master of Science Program for Project Management at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology offers traditional and agile project management programs that respond to local and global needs using online and face-to-face instructional methods. In support of this mission, the degree program provides innovative academic and experiential learning opportunities that require students to understand, apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate projects, teams and leaders in enterprise environments.

## Important Dates:

**8/18/17**

Summer Semester Classes End

**8/26/17**

Fall Semester Classes Start

**10/13/17**

Late Summer Semester Classes End

**10/28/17**

Late Fall Semester Classes Start

**10/28/17**

PMP/CAPM Exam Prep  
Online Classes Start



## Tom's Notes

"Welcome to this inaugural edition of PMGT NEWS! Exciting things are happening in our University and in our Program. Our MS Program just became the largest of the GRAD programs starting in the Late Summer session – 1037 students enrolled! We also had a record for us 213 students starting in our program in Late Summer.

In addition, on July 7, we have added one additional full time faculty, Dr. Barbara Geisler. Welcome Barb! She is also a recent PMP grad from our PMP Prep program. She will be helping us in MGMT 520, MGMT 560, and GRAD 695 as well as helping to coordinate the overall instructional quality of our program.

Also joining us is Dr. Rob Pittman who was originally hired in August 2016 to support both ISEM and PMGT. Welcome Rob! ISEM had the greater need so Rob has been helping Dr. Umar in ISEM for the last year. Rob will be helping us teach and improve GRAD 695 as well as helping us with ITPM 515 – Business and Requirements Analysis Fundamentals.

Our PMI Global Accreditation Center onsite team spent three days with us in Mid July. Lots of rocks turned over and peaking inside our program. I am optimistic about the results but we likely won't know if we passed their accreditation process, until October. Given what we learned from GAC onsite visit, we will be focusing on improving the coverage of our curriculum and the quality of instruction from our faculty. Stay tuned!"

## Featured Faculty

Dr. Robert Pittman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University, a Master of Science degree in Electrical/Computer Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, an Executive MBA degree from Binghamton University and a PhD in Industrial & Systems Engineering from Binghamton University.

He comes to his full-time academic position at Harrisburg University with extensive industrial experience with organizations that include General Electric Co., IBM and Lockheed Martin Corp. Dr. Pittman is quite experienced in new business development, complex Systems Engineering, System Architecture development, Program Management, Subcontractor Management, large systems implementation, integration, verification, validation and deployment.

Dr. Pittman's primary research interests are in the evolution of Large Scale Systems Engineering, its applicability to Agile processes and process application and tailoring to small commercial enterprises. He is a long-time member of the IEEE, INCOSE and Beta Gamma Sigma professional organizations.



**Robert Pittman, PhD**  
Assistant Professor



**Barb Geisler, EdD, PMP**  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Barb Geisler has over fifteen years of experience in higher education and project management. She earned a Master's Degree in Adult Education and Doctorate in Higher Education from Widener University and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP®). She previously worked as a project manager in the government sector overseeing contracts with the US Navy, Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and other agencies of the Department of Defense. Dr. Geisler also has a background in instructional design and has presented at several national conferences on best practices in e-learning. Her teaching focus includes project management leadership, communication and research methodology.



In the  
Spotlight

## Project Management Alumni

### Tell us a little about yourself.

"I accomplished my undergraduate studies with Physiotherapy major in my home country, India. Having successfully finished my academics (Bachelors degree course of 4.5 years), I embarked on a professional career which includes 2.5 years of experience working as an ICCU (Intensive Cardiac Care Unit) Physiotherapist for Cardiac Hospital. Although, having a Bachelors degree and professional experience in the medical domain, I was always very keen towards knowing and learning about work/project lifecycle regardless of any particular field or industry. Eventually, my interest and support from my family encouraged me to elaborate my knowledge through higher education. My marvelous journey of M.S. Project Management at HU helped me to gain in-depth knowledge of project life cycle along with evolving all the required skills. Now that I have graduated, my prime goal is to attain an apt platform where I can utilize my knowledge and skills to perform professional duties. I aspire to start my professional career as a Project Coordinator or a Business Analyst adding the Project Manager be on the future list."



Sweta Shah, M.S.  
Class of 2017

"The Project Management Program offered by Harrisburg University has played a key role in developing better communication, managerial, and leadership skills along with thorough education on how to implement those skills with great effectiveness."



Dinesh Kumar, M.S.  
Class of 2017

"Knowledgeable faculty who was often teaching from practical, real-world experience made it a pragmatic graduate level experience."

### Tell us a little about yourself.

"My background is in structural engineering and I have a strong interest in management and project management. Though I already had the project management professional (PMP) certification, I wanted to have wider and deeper understanding of project management for a diversity of projects. A friend recommended Harrisburg University's Project Management graduate program since there are very few focused programs like that. I am happy I made that decision as the flexibility HUST offers combined with the practicing faculty made it an enjoyable experience. Since starting the program, I could obtain the title of manager though I was already doing the work. I plan to continue in engineering management and apply the knowledge and concepts to my work. I'd definitely be returning to HUST for more!"

## Did you know?

Demand over the next 10 years for project managers is growing faster than demand for workers in other occupations. Organizations, however, face risks from this talent gap. The latest PMI-commissioned talent gap analysis by Anderson Economic Group (AEG) points to outstanding opportunities in jobs and career growth for project managers within the 11 countries studied. Through 2027, the project management-oriented labor force in seven project-oriented sectors is expected to grow by 33 percent, or nearly 22 million new jobs.

By 2027, employers will need nearly 88 million individuals in project management-oriented roles. China and India will represent more than 75 percent of the total project management-oriented employment.

Newly created positions are expected to occur each year in project management-oriented industries in mostly these countries: China, India, United States, Brazil, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirate.

The career is financially rewarding as well, in United States in 2017, wages of project management-oriented workers in projectized industries were far higher on average than wages of non-projectized-oriented professionals – a premium of 82 percent. The ninth edition of PMI's biennial report found that, among those surveyed, salaries of practitioners with the Project Management Professional (PMP)® certification are 20 percent higher on average than those without a PMP®. With an expected increase in jobs, competitive salaries and the chance to make a difference, the future is bright for project professionals.

## Did you also know?

You can get your Agile Scrum certification from Scrum.org! Harrisburg University has a special rate established for students and faculty to get their Professional ScrumMaster – I certification or Professional Scrum Product Owner certification. Students can get their certification for \$50. This is a bargain! Contact Joe Malak for more information. [Jmalak@harrisburg.edu](mailto:Jmalak@harrisburg.edu).

