1. Virtual Classroom Opens in August. As the first graduate program of HR and LR to virtually open its classroom doors, we will offer our master’s degree to working professionals located anywhere around the globe. Through this virtual portal, off-campus students and executives will participate live in our classroom experience.

Championed by our alumni at Dell, Dell has designed and is installing this advanced HD video and audio conferencing system at cost. With generous contributions from our alumni (including a $100k gift from alumnus Tom Fox) and a $100k investment by MSU, this showcase initiative will integrate the best in traditional face-to-face classroom learning with virtual capabilities.

2. Congratulations to our May, 2014 Graduating Class! It was all smiles for our 45 graduates and the other 200+ family members, faculty and staff attending our graduate banquet on May 2nd.

Alumnus and Advisory Board member Mary Anderson (Director of Global HR Strategy and Organizational Development, Ford Motor Company) delivered a special keynote address about the journey from student to leaders in our profession.

Mary was followed by reflections about the MHRLR experience as shared by the past president of our student-led SHRM chapter, Rod Armstrong, now off to Microsoft. The banquet closed with a heartfelt standing ovation in recognition of our graduates’ completion of our master’s degree. Our warmest wishes to our new alumni!

3. Annual SHRM Conference Tops Off a Year of Outstanding Student Leadership. Congratulations to the SHRLR student leaders of our award winning SHRM chapter on the great success of the 2014 annual conference entitled “Realign: The Business of HR.” With a
record 240 in attendance, participants were treated to a full day of exceptional learning and networking. Among the speakers were:

✓ Alumnus and Advisory Board member John Malanowski (CHRO, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center)

✓ Alumnus and Advisory Board member Drew Valentine (VP of HR, Development and Manufacturing, IBM)

✓ Alumnus Jeff Krautkramer (VP of HR, Health & Science Technologies, IDEX)

✓ Advisory Board member Al Iacobelli (VP of Employee Relations, Chrysler Group)

4. New Faculty and Awards.

✓ Chenwei Liao (Ph.D. University of Illinois, Chicago, and College of Business) is joining our faculty as an Assistant Professor in the fall. He will be teaching courses in leadership in both our master’s program and our new undergraduate minor entitled “Leadership of Organizations.” Chenwei is the co-author of “Servant Leadership and Serving Culture” which is being published in the Academy of Management Journal.

✓ Assistant Professor Mevan Jayasinghe (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, and School of Business) has received the “2013 Dissertation Award” by the Sloan Foundation’s prestigious Industry Studies Association. His dissertation examined the positive effects of voluntary adoption of labor codes and standards on firm performance and employee well being across 122 sites in the Sri Lankan apparel industry.

**Spartan Strong!**

**Bill Cooke**
Director, School of Human Resources & Labor Relations