Given the current economic environment – Summer 2008
Are stocks fairly overvalued? (valuation and theory)
Will corporate earnings grow? (capital budgeting)
Will the Fed raise interest rates?
Will the economy continue to be affected by the subprime debacle?
Will there be a wave of mergers, LBOs, and Private Equity?

Dear Graduate Student:

These questions will form the basis of our coverage in the fall. The course is a study of corporate finance, the theory and practice. Our reading of The Wall Street Journal will complement the theory found in the text.

The course officially begins on Tuesday, September 2 and our first “chat” will be on Sunday, September 7.

I will post the notes and assignments for week 1 on Friday, August 29 along with the syllabus and a suggested “guide.” Afterwards these will be posted by Monday. I consider the “chats” to be the “heart” of the course—these are the times when the main points of the course along with your questions and comments can be developed in a discussion setting. They will be on Sunday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. For those who cannot attend, a historical record is posted following the chat.

Required Texts:
- The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)
- Barbarians at the Gate

You can order through the Marist bookstore at (845) 575-3260 or by using their new on-line web site at http://maristbkstore.com and The Wall Street Journal for which you can get a student subscription by calling (800) JOURNAL and informing them you are enrolled in the eMBA course at Marist College.

In the first week, you may post some information in “Personal Introductions” that will enable us to get to know one another a little better. You may post anything that you would like to share with the class.

The semester should prove to be exciting in the financial markets and let’s hope less volatile.
Good luck!

Sincerely,

Chet Kobos
Assistant Professor of Finance