

STUDENT LIFE

Students Share Memorable Experiences in Germany

by Corinne O'Connor, Class of 2009

After a wonderful week of sightseeing and travel in Paris and Munich, a group of first- and second-year MBA students arrived in Berlin on January 11 not too sure what to expect from the mysterious city. Having heard that Berlin was an enchanting city, we couldn't wait to begin this week of study abroad with the Freie Universität, Berlin. We



Illinois MBA students pose in front of remains of the Berlin Wall during a week-long course at Freie Universität in Berlin, Germany.

arrived at night, and the city was lit up with neon. An assortment of amazingly colorful and artistic graffiti marked nearly every tag-able surface – a truly incredible sight.

We hit all of the traditional sights of Berlin. We saw the Brandenburg Gate at night, the remaining pieces of the Berlin Wall and walked along the Alexanderplatz to the iconic Television Tower. On the last day of our visit we were invited to a private tour of the Reichstag, the center of German government. These sights, along with the incredible German food and drink, provided a week full of authentic German fare.



Students visited the Reichstag, the home of German Parliament.

The week continued with several amazing lectures from the faculty at the Freie Universität. We enjoyed on-site company visits to Daimler's Research Center in the heart of Berlin, an extensive tour of Siemens AG on the outskirts of the city and a visit to T-Labs, which is the home of the futuristic development labs for Deutsche Telekom. We learned how efficient and effective German business and engineering really are, and we saw it in practice.

At the end of the week we were greeted by the professor, Dr. Thomas Mellewig, and a large group of current graduate students at Freie Universität. After a beer sampling from the well-known Gaffel Haus, we were invited to Club Trompete where many of us danced and took in the night-life. The week was incredible and we were treated so graciously by the students and faculty of Freie Universität.

Now that this will be an ongoing relationship between Freie and the Illinois MBA, there will no doubt be many more enjoyable stories from MBA students to come.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb1:	Ad Bowl, Rock's Bar and Grill
Feb 2-3:	Business Career Fair, ARC
Feb 4:	WiB Silent Auction, MBA Student Lounge
Feb7:	Alumni Banquet, UIC forum, Chicago
Feb 16:	Investigate Illinois
Feb 18:	Big Ten Internal Case Competition
Feb 20:	WiB Conference, Business Instructional Facility

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Illinois MBA Alumni Professional Group



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<http://www.linkedin.com/IllinoisMBA>

NEWS

Message from the Associate Dean

by Mary Miller, Associate Dean



The New Year and the new semester are off to a busy start. Students returned to campus from all over the world: one-week study abroad courses in Berlin and Mexico City; hiking and community service in Peru; vacationing in New York, New Orleans, Washington DC and other U.S. cities; visits to family and friends in India, Taiwan, Korea and throughout the United States; and marriage ceremonies and honeymoons!

Now, it is again time to turn our attention to supporting students as they search for internships and permanent positions. As the economy continues to weaken, it will require extra time and effort by us and our students to source opportunities. We realize that it is not just our current students, but many alumni who are also experiencing the effects of a weak economy. If you know of an opportunity, please contact us.

We all know how important it is to build relationships and that the best job opportunities aren't usually advertised. To that end, I encourage all of you to attend the MBA Alumni Banquet in Chicago on February 7. Mr. Alan Feldman (MBA '76), Chairman, President and CEO of Midas, will be honored at the banquet. Registration closes at noon on February 2, so register now: www.illinois.edu/goto/mba_alumni_banquet



ILLINOIS MBA
ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

Illinois MBA Alumni Awards Banquet
Saturday, February 7, 2009
Chicago, Ill

Follow the link below to register:

www.illinois.edu/goto/mba_alumni_banquet

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

S.O.S. – World Economy in Distress

by Smitha Soman, Class of 2010



“We are a part of important history in its making,” declared Professor Srinivasan Kannan in his corporate finance class. Kannan is passionate about finance and teaching students to think in the “finance” way. Much of class time this year has been spent discussing the current economy.

Thanks to his extensive educational background, culminating in a PhD in Finance from the University of Illinois, and to the knowledge gained while running his own manufacturing business, Professor Kannan was able to offer insight into what has happened in recent months and to preview the outcomes that are yet to be seen.

Kannan indicates that the risk-averse behavior of the consumer is the major contributing factor to the economic problems. Hence, the need of the hour is to implement measures to reverse investor/consumer thinking and build confidence in the market.

Recent short surges in the Dow Jones Industrial Average are signs of artificial growth, stimulated by money pumped in to allow free flow of cash in the market. Kannan stated that until a change is made, such as an introduction of a new technology, the stock market will continue to fluctuate. He suggests that to create real change, the government will need to support the relevant industries with new laws that will change consumer behavior.

It is clear that there is still much to learn about this economic situation, and Professor Kannan helps the students further their understanding every day by relating classroom material to daily news headlines. According to the professor, the best moments in class are when students ask questions that force the entire class, and him, to learn more.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

MBA Leadership Transfers to Class of 2010

by Courtney Hainline, Assistant Director, Student Affairs

The Spring Leadership Forum was held for new MBAA and club officers at the recently opened I Hotel & Conference Center on January 22, 2009. This event provided the student leaders with information about event-planning procedures, University resources and services available through the MBA program.

The outgoing VP of Programs, Jasen Schrock, enthusiastically talked about the importance of holding a leadership position and the value of partnering with corporations to seize networking opportunities. Mike Petersen, outgoing VP of Alumni Affairs, encouraged students to attend the Alumni Banquet in Chicago on February 7 and explained the importance of alumni relationships. The 2009 MBAA board, as a whole, shared their goals and vision for the year.

The new MBAA president, Henry Palomino, is planning to focus on improving alumni relations, serving the community and helping fellow students develop their leadership skills.

At the end of the program, clubs had the opportunity to brainstorm and begin planning events for the semester. “I feel very confident that we have a strong leadership team in place, and I am excited to see what events and activities our clubs will plan in 2009! I encourage all students to become involved with the MBAA and take advantage of the various professional and social opportunities that are available,” said Courtney Hainline, Assistant Director of Student Affairs.

NEWS

Illinois Business Consulting: Year in Review

by Ron Watkins, Director, IBC

For many of you, a big part of your MBA experience here at Illinois was your involvement with Illinois Business Consulting (IBC). Here's an update on what is happening in IBC:

- We had approximately 200 students participate in and complete 24 projects this past semester.
- IBC now recruits students campus-wide, attracting both graduate and undergraduate students not only from business but also from colleges such as engineering, agriculture, consumer and environmental sciences, law, library and information sciences, and liberal arts and sciences.
- We have moved to a suite of offices in the new Business Instructional Facility.
- IBC is now a Registered Educational Provider with the Project Management Institute, allowing us to offer project management professional (PMP) certification exam prep courses to students and professionals interested in gaining certification. We have recently partnered with Global Campus to offer this course online: global.uillinois.edu.
- We are currently recruiting for Spring 2009 projects. If your organization can benefit from high-quality consulting work for a fraction of market cost, contact Ron Watkins, IBC Director, at (217)333-2810 or via e-mail at ronw@uillinois.edu.
- We have recently developed an online alumni newsletter. If you have not received a copy and would like to be included in our distribution list, please provide your e-mail address at uillinoisbc@uillinois.edu.

For those who are not familiar with this program, founded in 1996, IBC is a student-run, professionally managed consulting firm in the College of Business. IBC students handle 40-50 projects annually for Fortune 50 companies, non-profit organizations and entrepreneurial start-up firms. It provides unique and challenging opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to apply their classroom learning to real-world issues. In return, companies using IBC services receive unparalleled consulting work and gain access to top talent for a fresh and creative look at problems.

For additional information about IBC, visit our website at www.ibt.uillinois.edu. If you have a project that will challenge and leverage the creativity and knowledge of the program's students, please contact us.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions Office Shows Optimism for 2009

by Ben Moreland, Associate Director of Admissions

2009 is a year for optimism in the Illinois MBA admissions office. It is a time for optimism because the Business Instructional Facility is no longer a distant dream but a reality that may be witnessed. For the first time, campus visitors will glimpse MBA student life in the new Business Instructional Facility (BIF). The professional and modern appearance of BIF gives justice to the quality of education our students receive from the Illinois MBA.

The admissions team always looks forward to meeting the many interesting professionals that apply to Illinois from all over the United States and the world each year. This year, admissions hopes to further involve our students and alumni in meeting and communicating with these great candidates. It is, after all, our alumni and students who offer the greatest proof of the value of an MBA degree from the University of Illinois.

If you are interested in reaching out to prospective students and helping recruit the Class of 2011, please contact Jackie Wilson, Director of Admissions, at jjwilson@uillinois.edu.

CAREER SERVICES

Career Services Expands Its Reach through HireIllini.com

by Julie Sweet, Associate Director, Career Services

The Illinois MBA has a great advantage in being affiliated to an internationally recognized university. MBA Career Services continually works with other career services offices at the University of Illinois to ensure we are sending a positive and consistent message to employers when they are considering any University of Illinois graduates for employment opportunities.

Our Career Services office is very involved in the University of Illinois' marketing campaign for HireIllini.com. The campaign's goal is to educate both current and prospective employers on the high-quality candidates available at this university as well as on the partnership the career services offices have formed to assist employers in an efficient and effective search for the right students. The strong network we have built with other career services offices continues to bring in new employers and relationships, expanding our MBA network and resources.

MBA Career Services is leading the HireIllini.com marketing for the Illinois Marathon event scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2009. The entire University of Illinois career services network, as well as their family and friends, are encouraged to wear our "HireIllini.com" shirts while volunteering or participating in the marathon, half marathon, or 5K events.

As alumni and friends of MBA Career Services, you are invited to participate in or volunteer for the Illinois Marathon. Please join us in showing your Illini pride and publicizing HireIllini.com. To find out how you can receive a free HireIllini.com shirt to wear the day of the event, please contact Julie Sweet at jasweet@uillinois.edu for more information.

STUDENT LIFE

Mexican Tourism Serves as Focus of Study Abroad Trip

by Colleen White, Class of 2010

This January, twenty-nine Illinois MBA students took leave from vacation early to participate in a study abroad trip to Mexico City. Both full-time and part-time students attended class for a week at IPADE University, a top Mexican business school. The week-long intensive course provided an opportunity for Illinois MBA students to work alongside Mexican business students and learn about the tourism industry in Mexico.

Throughout the week Illinois and IPADE students attended lectures from experts in Mexican tourism. The lectures covered topics ranging from the development of senior living communities and travel destinations within Mexico, such as Cancun and Puebla, to other attractions unique to Mexico. The students' education was not limited to the classroom as both Illinois and IPADE students spent days traveling to destinations within Mexico City as well as to the nearby town of Puebla to experience unique cultural aspects of the city. Students also visited Mayan ruins, historic churches and museums and took the opportunity to sample true Mexican cuisine. When not attending class, students found time to go salsa dancing with the Mexican business students and to witness a Mexican wrestling match.



IMBA students pose in front of a Mayan ruin on an excursion from Mexico City during their studies at IPADE University over winter break.



At the end of the week-long course, integrated teams of Illinois and IPADE MBA students presented concepts on how different areas of Mexico City could become destinations for tourism. Each team's presentation drew heavily on the lessons learned over the week of study. At the conclusion of the study abroad trip, the Illinois MBA students offered warm good-byes to their Mexican counterparts and returned to the frozen Midwest to start the spring semester.

MBA Alumnus Delivers Lesson on Leadership

by Sayantan Choudhury, Class of 2010

On December 5, 2008, Michael Perrino, MBAA president from the Class of 1979, spoke to current IMBAs about his career path and how his life has changed since developing his own venture, Perrino & Associates.

After earning his MBA, Perrino spent 12 years as a marketing director at Keebler and seven years as Vice-President of Marketing at ConAgra Foods before joining Perrino & Associates as a consultant and food industry specialist.

During his presentation, Perrino cited the importance of timing when considering a job change and spoke briefly about the rationale behind each of his own career moves. In addition, Perrino discussed various leadership lessons that he has gathered throughout his career.

Perrino offered advice on how to be a leader. He spoke about being a coach and also being coachable. He told the students to do more than just the job at hand and also advised everyone to recognize and celebrate success.

In addition to offering advice, Perrino discussed several leadership challenges that one is likely to face in the business world. Three challenges that he has experienced include the fact that "everyone wants your job," creating a work-life balance and learning to be effective in your job.

Perrino concluded his presentation by quoting Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach: "Leaders aren't born, they are made. They are made like anything else...through hard work."

Administration Treats Students to Welcome Back Dinner

by Nate Shanklin, Class of 2010

The Illinois MBA administration hosted a "Welcome Back" dinner on January 20. The dinner, for staff, faculty and students, offered the opportunity for everyone to regroup and prepare for the new spring semester and to reflect on what they experienced over the winter break.

The event started with Associate Dean Mary Miller giving an account of her trip to India and then to Germany. Students were encouraged to talk about their travels and experiences over the winter break, whether they took part in a study abroad trip to Germany or Mexico or if they traveled someone new for their own personal enjoyment. Students stood up and talked about their adventures in places like Colombia, Peru or more locally, New York City.

Following dinner, Dean Miller thanked students for attendance and wished them well during the upcoming semester.

Illinois MBA 2008 Club Officers

MBAA CORNER

MBA Association



President: Henry Palomino
 VP Comm.: Sarath Ramakrishnan
 VP Finance: John Karantonis
 VP Social Planning: Anita Antony
 VP of Program: Anne Hammond
 VP Alumni Affairs: Scott Madison

MBA Service Association



President: Kim French
 VP Finance: Loren Friedman
 VP Marketing: David Samuel
 (not pictured)

A Message from the MBAA President

by Henry Palomino, President, MBA Association



Welcome back all! I hope you had a relaxing break.

For the Class of 2010, the first semester is over and academically classes were stimulating and challenging. For the Class of 2009, your final semester is just beginning. Each class has its own distinct personality, but we all share one thing in common: our commitment to this MBA program.

This is a great program, and we must make it even better not only while we are here but also after we leave. To the Class of 2010, I encourage you to ask yourselves, "What is enough?" Get engaged, take action, ask for more and enjoy the MBA experience to the fullest. To the graduating Class of 2009, I ask you to take on the world and be successful. Your success will be the success of the Illinois MBA.

As president of the MBA Association, I am excited about the prospects for 2009. As we are all aware, the global economic conditions are affecting every organization's budget. We could not be more fortunate, however, to have strong leadership within the MBA Association, the different MBA clubs and the Illinois MBA administration. We should all make a concerted effort to obtain the most out of every event, program and activity. Every penny should be well spent. This is the right time to be creative, innovative and to do more with less.

When we look back at our years at Illinois, let us be inspired to reunite with friends, give back to the program, and support talented prospective students. We are all ambassadors of the Illinois MBA.

Congratulations and good luck to the Illinois MBA 2009 Club Officers!



Diversity Association



President: Lauren Johnson
 VP Finance: Nicole Wang
 VP Marketing: Jeff Hong

Net Impact



President: Jennifer Liou
 VP Finance: Eugene Qian
 VP Marketing: Smitha Soman

Graduate Finance Association



President: Jonathan Grubb
 VP Finance: Gagan Bhatia
 VP Marketing: David George

Operations and Technology Management Association



President: Himanshu Kapoor
 VP Finance: Vishak Shetty
 VP Marketing: Maggie Breloff

Graduate Marketing Association



President: Parmesh Venkateswaran
 (not pictured)
 VP Finance: Ramya Nath
 VP Marketing: Aaron Chan

Women in Business Society



President: Colleen White
 VP Finance: Delia Flores
 VP Marketing: Amanda Hansen

STUDENT LIFE

Interview with an Intern

by Sayantan Choudhury, Class of 2010



Name: Amitanshu Tripathy

Company: SAP America

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Q: Can you briefly describe the internship program that you were involved in?

A: I was a Value Engineering Intern, focusing on B2B sales and marketing. In that role, I interacted with potential customers to understand their pain points, business strategy and to analyze how those pain areas could turn into a potential sales opportunity for SAP. In addition, I was involved in the peer analysis of the customers to better understand the different process areas of the customer's business. One interesting event was my involvement in the company's Business Case Competition. We were tasked with developing a go-to-market strategy and a sales force integration strategy for SAP following its acquisition of Business Objects.

Q: How did your internship experience compare to your past work and school experiences?

A: This internship required a very high level of soft skills, as I reported simultaneously to six senior principles who were all working for different customers. As a result, I had to focus on developing time management skills that I was not previously concerned about. Also, I often fell back onto the basics that I learned during my first year of MBA classes. However, the nature of the work required me to learn quickly and on my own. I faced new concepts such as supply chain management, pricing and analyzing financial statements. Now, in my second year of the MBA, I am learning about these concepts in class and am able to reinforce the real business experience that I had at SAP.

Q: What is your advice for the first-year MBA students who are looking for internships now?

A: Given the present market situation, I would advise everyone to keep an open mind and look beyond the United States and one's own home country. Consider that the BRIC countries might be a wise thing to do at the moment. During my own search, I was very focused on finding a company with a strong brand name. I felt that a good brand basically indicated a successful company with competent departments and mature processes and would provide me with an opportunity to learn and grow.

LIFE EVENTS



Bettina Linder ('99) married Frank Helfenstein in New York City on November 10, 2008.



Eugene Roeder ('10) and his wife, Jessica, recently gave birth to their fourth child, a daughter named Bria Jane.



Parmesh Venkateswaran ('10) married Vidya Karigirivasan ('09) in Bangalore India on January 18, 2009



Kim French ('10) married Kyle Kloepper in Campaign on December 20, 2008

Sean Bauer ('04) was recently promoted to Manager of Marketing Strategy at the Walgreen Company in Deerfield, Ill.

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