

Sixth Street Journal 2.0

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois MBA

STUDENT LIFE

IMBA Says ‘Olá’ to Brazil

by Anna-lisa Peter, Class of 2008

More than 50 Illinois MBA students studied abroad in sunny São Paulo, Brazil, over the winter break at the Universidade de São Paulo and FIPE (Fundação Instituto de Pesquisas Econômicas). And several preceded their arrival to São Paulo with a



MBA students display their enthusiasm by sporting yellow and green Brasil t-shirts.

stay in Rio de Janeiro, where students frequented the beach, went hang gliding, shopped, took in the booming nightlife and experienced such landmarks as Cristo Redentor and the view from Sugarloaf Mountain.

In São Paulo, students soaked up the sites of the world’s second-largest city, while also learning in depth about Brazil’s multi-faceted social and economic landscape. The week began with a fun-filled alumni dinner in which Brazilian IMBA alumni met and socialized with current students and Dean Mary Miller.

Professor Paulo Pichetti, who led the course, started the school week by explaining that there is much more to Brazil than what tourists see; Brazil is a complex place that comprises an abundance of natural resources. Through class instruction, guest speakers and site visits, students further learned about the labor market, social welfare institutions and the landscape of the energy market in Brazil, among many other things. Highlights of the program included site visits to a highly sophisticated cosmetics production plant for cosmetics company Natura, and to aircraft manufacturer Embraer’s global headquarters. The

program concluded with a visit to the Brazilian Mercantile and Futures Exchange.

Ultimately, students on the Brazil trip said the experience was enlightening in many ways – they not only learned in spades about the business landscape of Brazil, but they learned even more about their fellow classmates.

Students Return from Break

by Judy McDermott, VP of Social Programs

Illinois MBA students kept themselves very busy over the winter break. Besides traveling to Brazil, Mexico or India for class-related trips (see related articles), many students took the time off as an opportunity to see other parts of America and the world or to travel to their home town or country. Still, others used the month off to log in some hours at their old jobs, or apply to internships and full-time, post graduation positions. And others just relaxed with family and friends.

First-year student Mike Ozuruigbo went home to Chicago over the break, where he celebrated his January 6 birthday at the Bulls vs. Pistons basketball game. And first-year student Chris Mulliken went to Washington D.C. to work for Bearing-Point to support 2007 financial planning responsibilities for the healthcare sector.

Meanwhile, many students made trips to New York City – among them were Amy Wu, Eric Chen, Christina Kim, George Kritikos and Rob White. Other students, including David Hsu, Chia-Chen Chang and Alex Spektor, visited California.

First-year student Varun Aggarwal traveled to his home country of India and worked for his family’s business. And students Fiona Zhao and Tina Yu returned to their homes in Shanghai, China.

Despite where they were, many students made it back to campus in time for the Welcome Back Picnic held at the Illini Union on January 16. At the event, the IMBA administration recapped this semester’s agenda, and students who went abroad on the school’s Brazil, Mexico, and India trips talked about their experiences.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 1:** LABS Spanish Conversation Interaction
- Feb 2:** Submission Deadline for Cadillac Case Competition
- Feb 4:** GMA’s Ad-Bowl
- Feb 9:** MBA 503 Quiz
- Feb 10:** 4th Annual Women in Business Leadership Conference
- Feb 11:** LABS Movie Night
- Feb 15:** Roundtable: Deep Dive Workshop
- Mar 2:** College of Business Spring Luncheon

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STUDENT LIFE

IMBA Students Travel South of the Border to Mexico City

by Dianne Gregory, Class of 2008

Twenty University of Illinois students traveled south of the border last month to attend a week-long program at Instituto Panamericano de Alta Direccion de Empresa (IPADE) Business School in Mexico City. Illinois students in attendance included not only those from the MBA program but also Illinois classmates pursuing business graduate degrees in accounting, technology and finance.

The program's curriculum included classroom lectures, meetings with local business entrepreneurs, cultural activities, company site visits and group presentations of business plans. Illinois students worked alongside IPADE students throughout the entire week. Students were divided into groups at the start of the program with each consisting of eight Mexican students and two Illinois students.

While there, students learned the importance of understanding the culture of Mexico in order to successfully do business there. This culture, along with Mexico's political and social history, is very complex and different from that of the United States, students learned. Specifically, students witnessed that due to the illiteracy, poverty, corruption, infrastructural problems and political instability in Mexico, business interactions take place against the backdrop of a much different landscape than in the United States. But



Representing one of the highlights of the Mexico City experience is an old Corona delivery truck. Students were provided with a tour of the Corona factory.

despite this, many Mexican businesspeople still own very successful global companies.

One such person is the owner of INMAGUSA, Alejandro Loya, who students found to be the most influential speaker of the week. Loya spoke, among other things, about empowering employees rather than micro-managing them.

Ultimately, the "Business in Mexico" trip was a very memorable experience for all participants. Not only did the students from Illinois learn a great deal about Mexico, but the Mexican students also learned a tremendous amount about Illinois students.



Jongseok (Jimmy) Kim, Kristen Winkler, Dianne Gregory and Mary Miller all appear to be enjoying the experience at IPADE in Mexico City.

NEWS

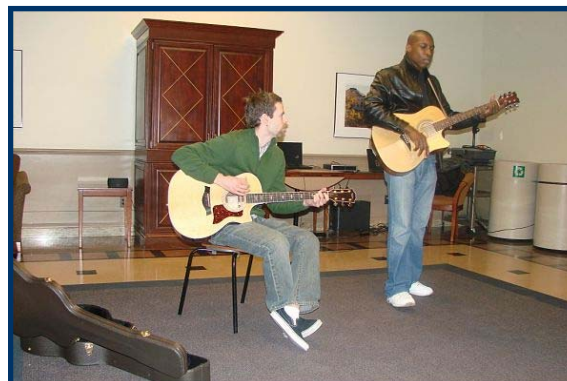
IMBA Shows Talent at Women in Business Event

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007, and Judy McDermott, VP of Social Programs

The Talent Show, one of the most popular events held by the Women in Business Society (WiB), was presented in front of a packed audience in 370 Wohlers Hall on December 1, 2006. WiB initiated the Talent Show to raise funds for the 2007 Women in Business Conference to take place on February 10. The talent show, which WiB began hosting in 2005, offers an opportunity for all faculty members and students to demonstrate their flair outside of the business classroom.

This past semester's event was a roaring success, according to attendees. Performances ran the gamut, with salsa, contemporary and Indian dance numbers, as well as a capella and acoustic singing acts in three different languages. Indeed, crowd favorites included a duet R.E.M. "Losing My Religion" cover performance by first-year MBAs Graham Clarke and Elliot Baldini and a contemporary dance to a Shakira medley by first-years Chris Malabver and Min Ju Lee.

To better encourage and reward the performers this year, WiB prepared \$10 vouchers for each performance as a token of gratitude. Swapna Kulkarni, the Director of Programs for WiB, was the leader in putting this talent show together.



IMBA students Elliot Baldini and Graham Clarke performed a duet of R.E.M.'s "Losing My Religion."

Message from the Associate Dean

by Mary Miller, Associate Dean

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. A new year and a new semester bring new resolutions. So, I would like to share my top five resolutions for the Illinois MBA:

1. *Start a chapter of Net Impact.* <http://www.netimpact.org/>

This organization is a network of MBAs who want to make positive economic, environmental and social change in the world through business. Their community service objective is incorporated in our MBA Service Association (MSA), but it does more. By establishing a chapter, we will join a network of MBAs that are committed to positive change and enhance the connection to our new Center for Professional Responsibility.

2. *Increase attendance at MBA events.*

The annual Women in Business (WiB) conference offers students and alumni impressive guest speakers and sessions, but we need to increase the attendance at this conference and other events and activities during the semester – Career Quest, IBC Conference, Spring Gala, International Week and other student club events and conferences.

3. *Enhance and improve MBA external relations.*

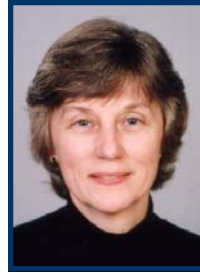
We will be hiring a staff member to work with Illinois MBA alumni and external audiences to improve the program's perception and reputation in the marketplace.

4. *Achieve 100% internship and permanent job placement for all students seeking employment.*

The economy is improving and Career Services is receiving more opportunities than ever before. Our MBAs need to actively engage in the internship or job search, and we are committed to helping them be successful.

5. *Admit and enroll the "best" MBA Class of 2009.*

Applications have increased over the same time last year, and the admissions team has implemented some new initiatives, including a "named" alumni scholarship. We are dedicated to continuing to improve the quality and diversity of the incoming class.



Alumni Membership Update

by Ben Lester, Class of 2006

The Illinois MBA Alumni Association continues to enjoy solid support from you, the alumni of the Illinois MBA program. Our Board has added several new members in the past quarter to help sustain some of the initiatives we have planned for the future, but we still need your help!

Remember that even if you do not live in Chicago, you can join our organization. We have members who dial in to each of our board meetings to share their perspective and stay connected to the MBA community. Some do this from several states away. If you do not live in Chicago, but you want to be involved in the work of the MBA Alumni Board, please contact me, and we will get you involved.

For those of you in Chicago, Leah Pettit has taken the reins in hosting our traditional "Second Tuesday's" event in Chicago each month at the **Elephant & Castle Pub** (111 West Adams). If you are down in the Loop working, why not drop by to reconnect with the program?

We on the Membership Committee hope you will consider joining the Board this year and encourage you to make an effort to stay connected. Please let me know if you have any questions and please keep in touch.

FACULTY PROFILE

Hoetker Course Applies Strategy to Technology

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007

Professor Glenn Hoetker has in the past taught first-year Illinois MBA students about strategic thinking in his 503 Strategy course. But Hoetker plans to shift gears this year – toward technology – in MBA 503's Management of Technology class. The course will address, among other things, how technology helps shape management, all while maintaining a focus on strategic planning.



Having a Bachelor of Arts degree in Japanese Studies and Mathematics, Hoetker led an uncommon path to become a strategy professor. After receiving a graduate degree from the University of Illinois' Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Hoetker worked at a consulting firm, performing research on Japanese technology and commerce for clients including General Electric, IBM, Ford Motor Company and the U.S. Government. Later, Hoetker joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and subsequently, corporate law firm Dewey Ballantine to conduct international technology, politics and business analysis. Hoetker then went on to pursue a graduate economics degree and PhD in international business from the University of Michigan.

With abundant professional experience, Hoetker believes finding a way to link students' varied experiences to the classroom is crucial in effectively teaching MBA students. Students' collective experiences and unique backgrounds enrich the class and manifest the application of strategic thinking, Hoetker says.

In retrospect, every piece of his career development helps Hoetker be an effective professor. "The questions I pondered [during my career] now drive my research. The professional experiences are great for examples in class."

Outside of school, Hoetker enjoys spending time with his family. He also enjoys weightlifting, running and basketball.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Part-time MBA PreTerm Brings in the Class of 2009

by Sharon Yoon, Associate Director of Student Affairs

Thirty-six new members of the Part-Time Evening MBA (PTMBA) Class of 2009 began their two-and-a-half-year MBA experience at PreTerm 2007 with a warm welcome from Avijit Ghosh, Dean of the College of Business. During PreTerm, students also heard from guest speaker Associate Dean Mary Miller, were given opportunities to network with second-year part-time students and participated in team-building exercises.

The highlight of the day was the "Consulting Competition." In this activity, groups of students were given a case and asked to present why their group was the most qualified to be hired to solve the problem. Through this competition, students displayed their creativity, learned more about each other's background and enjoyed a few laughs at their classmates' wittiness in the presentations. New student Shakeel Ahmed stated, "Today's program was a perfect opportunity to get to know my classmates. I had a great time with the consulting competition, and now I really look forward to working with my classmates over the next couple of years."

This year's class includes several working professionals coming from as far away as Peoria. Some of the new locations represented by this year's class are Charleston, Danville and Mt. Zion. Furthermore, enough students are now attending the program from Decatur to add a shuttle service running to and from Decatur on class nights. This service is in addition to the service that has been running between Bloomington-Normal and Urbana.

We would like to thank the second-year part-time students for their help in making PreTerm 2007 a success. But most importantly, WELCOME PTMBA CLASS OF 2009!

ADMISSIONS

MBA Students Reconnect at Indoor Picnic

by Ben Moreland, Assistant Director of Admissions

After enjoying a month off from the busy student life to spend the holidays with family and friends, to take a well-deserved vacation, and, for many, to take part in one of the study abroad trips, MBA students needed an opportunity to refocus on the busy semester ahead of them. In support of that need, MBA staff members organized the "Indoor Picnic," which was held on January 16 – the first day of the spring semester.

Ninety students from both the full-time and part-time programs joined together to enjoy traditional picnic fare such as burgers and barbecue chicken and talk about their winter break experiences while viewing a slide show of photographs from the study abroad trips to Brazil and Mexico.

Additionally, MBA staff members previewed the semester ahead, reminding students of the exciting spring semester events with which they can get involved. Second-year students Chris Mulh, Kapil Rajurkar, Mark Lockwood and Arthur Scales all shared their wisdom on how to conduct a successful career search. First-year student Mirela Muresan made the audience jealous by recapping the highlights of the São Paulo trip; first-year student Kristin Winkler won laughs from the crowd with an entertaining review of her trip to Mexico City; and second-year student Margretta Angdjasrin impressed the audience by providing a glance at her long-term research project, which concluded in India over the break.

When the evening's festivities ended, it was clear that the Indoor Picnic succeeded in allowing students to reconnect, and it provided a casual setting for all members of the Illinois MBA to look ahead to a great spring semester.



First-year part-time student Collin Carlier (left) engages the audience with a dynamic presentation in the "Consulting Competition" as his teammates look on.

CAREER SERVICES

Career Services Looks Forward to Busy Spring Semester

by Julie Sweet, Associate Director of Career Services

Illinois MBA Career Services is in the midst of another spring recruiting season for our students. The season kicked off on January 30 and 31 when 150 companies attended the Spring Business Career Fair looking for both undergraduate and graduate students. MBA students were encouraged to attend and network with companies on both days for internships and full-time positions.

We are also actively planning our Spring CareerQuest event scheduled for Friday, March 30. Approximately 40 students will spend the day in Chicago meeting alumni and participating in the day's activities. This year's theme is interviewing, and the agenda will include topic exploration in the morning, a networking lunch and mock interviews with alumni in the afternoon.

If you would like to be involved in our CareerQuest event, or if your company would like to post a job shadow opportunity, internship and/or full-time position for MBA students, please contact us at MBACareerServices@uiuc.edu or 217-244-8019.

Also, if you know someone who would like to be included in the EASE MBA Alumni Database, please have them contact MBA Career Services at the email or phone number above, or they can self-register in EASE at <http://www.easemba.com/mbauic/index.php?script=local-login>.

Illinois MBA students are hopeful about the New Year!

Varun Aggarwal plans to smile and make people laugh more.
Chia-Chen Chang plans to stay healthy and happy, and to get more sleep.
Rob White plans to travel more.
George Kritikos hopes to spend more quality time with classmates.
Mike Ozuruigbo hopes to "find the true meaning of Sigma."

CLUB ROUNDUP

New Club Officers Elected to Leadership Positions

by Kristi Martin, Program Coordinator

On Monday, December 11, the MBA Association's 11 student clubs announced their new officers. The clubs provide leadership opportunities and activities for the participants. Each club is required to have one educational and one social event per semester. Popular annual events organized by student clubs include the Women in Business Conference, the GMA Ad Bowl and International Food Night. Congratulations to this year's new officers.

Asian Business Society (ABS)

President: Kwonseok (Edward) Son
Executive Vice President: Katrina Lin
VP of Social: Chia-Ching (Ryan) Chen
VP of Marketing: Wan-Chen (Jane) Hung
VP of Programs: Younhee (Erin) Ha
VP of Finance: Yingyos (Peng) Jienjiltert

Graduate Finance Association (GFA)

President: Melvin Langhart
Executive VP: Chris Malabver
Executive VP: Chris Mulliken
Executive VP: Guang (Peter) Jin
VP of Finance: Bhavik Rathod

Graduate Marketing Association (GMA) (Pictured Below)

President: Elliot Baldini (*back right*)
VP Strategy and Operations/Treasurer: Busaban (Hannah) Pratumvinit (*front left*)
VP of Research and Communications: Mirela Muresan (*front right*)
VP of Branding and External Affairs: Kunal Talwar (*back left*)



International Business Society (IBS)

President: Wonseok (Won) Choi
VP of Programs: Shih-Ning (Nicki) Chiu
VP of Public Relations: Ken Miyake
VP of Finance: Richard Yu

IMBA Golf Association

President: Matt Arient
Vice President: Rob White

Latin American Business Society (LABS)

President: Cesar Argueta
Executive Vice President: Anna-lisa Peter
VP of Finance: Pablo Barreda

MBAs of Color (MBAC)

President: Kristan Jones
VP of Finance: Graham Clarke

MBA Service Association (Pictured Below)

President: Mark Lewis (*middle*)
Vice President: Chaz Hinkle (*right*)
Treasurer: Brett Klinker (*left*)



Operations & Technology Management Association (OTMA)

President: Arhant Rawal
Executive Vice President: Vivek Verma
VP of Marketing: Chenjie (Judy) Ju
VP of Finance: Seungbong (Brian) Ha

Partners Club

President: Christina Kim
Treasurer: Jung-Yu (Erin) Lin

Women in Business Society (WiB)

President: Min Ju Lee
VP of Finance: Yuanyuan (Tina) Yu
VP of External Relations: Fiona Zhao
VP of Internal Communications: Sydney Chinchanchokchai

GMA to Host Ad-Bowl

by Elliot Baldini, GMA President

A Super Bowl commercial spot gives companies the opportunity to spend \$2.4 million in 30 seconds. But, for those companies that can afford the price, it may be worth it if the advertisement will be seen by some 90 million viewers. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 4, the Graduate Marketing Association will be hosting its annual Ad-Bowl so that students can view the Super Bowl's commercials on the big screen – and maybe watch a little football also. Festivities will begin at 4 p.m. at Rock's Sports Bar in Champaign and will include food, games and prizes.

MSA Looks Forward to Active Spring Semester

by Mark Lewis, MSA President

The Illinois MBA Service Association (MSA) started 2007 by welcoming its new board: Mark Lewis, Chaz Hinkle and Brett Klinker. The trio is currently putting together plans for what should be an exciting, service-filled spring semester. They plan to continue the commitments made by the previous MSA board, focusing on relationships with key organizations in the Urbana-Champaign community. Two of those entities, Habitat for Humanity and The Special Olympics Organization, form the backbone of the MSA's commitment to strengthening the alignment of its service needs with the best that the Illinois MBA can offer.

The MSA is currently working with Habitat to schedule some volunteer work time on a Habitat house this spring. Also, The Special Olympics Organization is holding its annual fundraising efforts on March 10. This fundraiser is in the form of a "Polar Plunge" at Lake of the Woods. The MSA is currently putting together teams of fundraising "plungers" to vie against each other in a manner that will send the losing team into the lake. The MSA is enlisting MBA faculty, staff and students to compete in this effort.

In addition to these events, the MSA is organizing a Child ID event that will fingerprint, identify and photograph area children to be used by parents in case of emergency. The MSA will also be providing volunteers to assist in the Christie Clinic – Run for the Health of It, which is an annual race in the community that draws participants from all over Central Illinois. Lastly, the MSA will be coordinating with a local food bank to hold a food drive at Easter to benefit local families.