

NEWS

Chicago 2016 Olympic Bid Led by IMBA Alumnus

by Colleen White, Class of 2010

On April 16, 2009, John Murray ('01) spoke to more than 60 Illinois MBA students, staff and alumni about his current position as the Chief Bid Officer for Chicago 2016, the organization in charge of preparing the bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Chicago. Chicago is one of four candidate cities vying for the 2016 Summer Olympics. Other cities include Madrid, Spain; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Tokyo, Japan.

This special event, held at the Illini Center in downtown Chicago, was hosted by the Illinois MBA and the College of Business Alumni Affairs office as part of the "Conversation with Leaders" speaker series, which introduces students to the talents and experiences of proven business leaders. Murray's presentation detailed the timeline of the bid process, the preparation of the official bid book and their efforts to impress the International Olympic Committee during their recent visit to Chicago.



John Murray ('01), Meeta Kratz ('01) and Laura Stout ('03) enjoy the social hour before Murray's presentation on the Chicago 2016 Olympic bid.

The presentation concluded with a powerful video that was shown to members of the International Olympic Committee during their recent visit, which showcased the city of Chicago and a number of U.S. Olympians who made compelling remarks about Chicago as a city whose people are passionate about athletic competition. Selection of the 2016 host city will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on October 2, 2009.

Until then, Murray and his team at Chicago 2016 will be working diligently to put together the best bid for the city of Chicago. John Murray's enthusiasm for bringing the Olympics to Chicago was infectious, and attendees departed the Illini Center inspired with visions of the city of Chicago playing host to Olympic athletes on the world stage.

Details about the Chicago 2016 bid can be found on their official website:

www.chicago2016.org.

Illinois MBA Alumni Professional Group



Are you part of our Illinois MBA Professional Group through LinkedIn? If not, visit our registration link and sign up now. Join hundreds of other Illinois MBA Alumni today! Registration Link:

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 1:** Panel Discussion: Global Finance Crisis
- May 1:** Illinois MBA Informational Lunch, Illini Center, Chicago, Ill.
- May 3:** Hustle for Humanity 5K Run
- May 5-15:** Final Exams
- May 12:** Second Tuesdays, The Gage Restaurant, Chicago, Ill.
- May 13:** Women in Business Roundtable, Illini Center, Chicago, Ill.
- May 15:** Spring Semester Ends
- May 16:** MBA Convocation Brunch
- May 17:** Commencement
- May 25:** Memorial Day (offices closed)

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NEWS

Message from the Associate Dean

by Mary Miller, Associate Dean



It isn't every day that we get the "inside" story on Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympics. On April 16, alumni and current students gathered at the Illini Center in Chicago to hear John Murray (MBA 2001), the Chief Bid Officer, share details about the process. We've all been reading about the Olympic bid in the newspapers, and there continues to be much discussion about the advantages to Chicago and the state of Illinois. John's presentation was informative and entertaining, as we all learned about what this bid entails.

The event also gave alumni, current students, incoming students and staff a chance to interact. There is much to be gained from a strong alumni network, and the reception before and after the presentation further developed those relationships. It was fun to hear about life events – new jobs, recent travels, births, engagements – as well as to learn how companies and organizations are dealing with the current economic situation.

We continue to explore all avenues and methods for finding internships and permanent positions for our current students. As the Class of 2009 starts to "check out," I reflect on the changes that have happened in the last two years. When the Class of 2009 arrived on campus, the economy was strong and opportunities were plentiful. We were still in David Kinley Hall (DKH) with MBA core classes being taught in Wohlers Hall. Today, we are enjoying our beautiful, new home (BIF). However, we are a lot more cautious about the future.

The Illinois MBA continues to be an excellent value, since additional education and job skills are differentiating factors in the marketplace. I am confident that our graduating MBAs are well-qualified and prepared to make positive contributions to the economy and to society.

ADMISSIONS

Final Campus Recruiting Event Shows Illinois' Popular Appeal

by Ben Moreland, Associate Director of Admissions

On April 6, 2009, 25 prospective students traveled to the University of Illinois to attend this year's final Investigate Illinois event. Attendees throughout the United States came to campus from as far away as Texas, California and New York in the United States. A number of foreign nations were also represented among the attendees, including South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, India, Israel and Zimbabwe.

Admissions saw its largest number of attendees at Investigate Illinois this year since this on-campus recruiting event started in 2007. More than 50 prospective students attended the two events, which were held in the new Business Instructional Facility.

This special event is designed to provide prospective students a full introduction to the people, the classes and the facilities that make the Illinois MBA what it is. In addition to observing an MBA class, taking a tour of the new building, and meeting with a member of the Illinois MBA staff for an admissions interview or career services presentation, attendees also had the opportunity to discover individual perspectives on the Illinois MBA. They talked to students during lunch in the bright and spacious BIF atrium, they listened to a presentation about Illinois Business Consulting by Senior Director Sunil Rajan and they asked their questions to a panel of second-year students, including Jasen Schrock, Kabid Choudhury, Sana Naim and Sarah Calhoun.

With a welcoming presentation by Dean Larry DeBrock at the beginning of the day and a warm send-off by Director of Admissions Jackie Wilson at the conclusion, the attendees left campus knowing that the Illinois MBA provides the faculty, resources and facilities needed to have a first-rate educational experience.

CAREER SERVICES

Walgreens' Job Shadow a Huge Success

by Annetta Culver, Senior Director of Career Services and Student Affairs

Three Illinois MBA students spent Friday, April 3, at Walgreens' headquarters in Deerfield, Illinois, to participate in a job shadow experience. By all accounts, it was a tremendous success.

Students applauded the opportunity to obtain a unique perspective on the day-to-day activities of the marketing division, as well as to interact with the professionals in that area. They were particularly intrigued with the challenge of using strategy that they learned in the first half of the day during a simulated case presented in the second half of the day.

Beth Jones Lubotsky, Senior Market Manager with Walgreens and 2005 MBA alumna, said, "The job shadow program is an excellent way for my department to keep in contact with the Illinois MBA even during a recruitment slowdown. It also allows us to get an in-depth look at potential job candidates from a different perspective by witnessing how the students comprehend and analyze complex business issues and interact with both my colleagues and one another."

Any company can host a job shadow and bring these same job shadow benefits to their place of employment. The experience can assume any desired format and can involve a single student or multiple students. MBA Career Services is scheduling job shadows for Fall 2009 and would welcome the opportunity to work with any alumni and their companies.

If you would like to explore the possibility and discuss your ideas, please contact MBACareerServices@illinois.edu.

Save the Date - August 20
*Fall 2009 CareerQuest, Chicago,
Alumni volunteers needed – watch for
your personal invitation*

STUDENT AFFAIRS

An Introduction to Student Affairs' Newest Member

by Sara Murphy, Program Assistant

I am the newest member of the Student Affairs team and was given the opportunity to introduce myself to the Illinois MBA community. Although I am a new employee, I am very familiar with the Illinois MBA. I am married to a 2006 alumnus, in fact, and I was a senior consultant with Illinois Business Consulting while I was in graduate school. Some of the current students may also know me from the Office for Information Management, where I work as a consultant and teach one of the Excel courses.



I am originally from Houston, Texas, and received my undergraduate degree in business from the University of Texas at Austin. I came to the University of Illinois in 2004 and received my Masters degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology in 2006, and I will complete my PhD from the University of Minnesota in Industrial/Organizational Psychology in the upcoming months.

I have previously held several government and industry positions, including working at a boutique M&A firm in St. Louis last year. Although I enjoyed these positions, I most like helping students of all backgrounds. For the past five years, I have devoted my research to helping students at all levels succeed, including admissions, student advising and career counseling. I have completed several consulting projects for the College Board, Harcourt Assessment and the Graduate Management Admission Council. I am excited to be part of the MBA team, and I look forward to getting to know all of you.



COLLEGE of
BUSINESS
at ILLINOIS

NEWS

Two U. of I. MBA Students Earn Global Leadership Award

by Jan Dennis, Business & Law Editor, *Inside Illinois*

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Two former U.S. Army officers now studying in the University of Illinois MBA program have won an international leadership award for organizing a first-of-its-kind career fair that connected military veterans with prospective employers.

David Chonowski and Christopher Petersen received the 2009 student leadership award from the Graduate Business Forum, a global organization established in 1983 to cultivate student leaders from the world's top business schools.

Chonowski and Petersen, founders and co-presidents of the Illinois MBA Veterans Association, were honored for spearheading last fall's Mid-Western MBA Veterans Career Conference, which connected veterans who are studying for MBAs at 10 Midwest colleges with job recruiters.

The pair organized the job fair in just six weeks after learning that nearly half of the U. of I. MBA program's corporate partners had cancelled or postponed campus recruiting events in the wake of a deep economic downturn.

More than 60 students attended the conference in downtown Chicago, and 70 percent said they were contacted about career opportunities by at least one of the 10 firms that participated, according to a post-event survey.

Registration fees from students and businesses also raised \$1,800 for the Wounded Warriors Project, a not-for-profit organization that provides support for severely injured combat veterans.

"David and Chris are exemplars and role models for global business schools on how vision, tenacity, a little creativity in approach and definite leadership can make a real difference and leave a lasting legacy to the benefit of all involved," the Graduate Business Forum said in a statement.

Chonowski and Petersen received the award during the group's Graduate Business Conference this month at National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

STUDENT LIFE

Students, Administration and Faculty Celebrate at Spring Gala

by Nate Shanklin, Class of 2010

On Saturday, April 4, students, administrative members and professors gathered at the I Hotel and Conference Center on the edge of the University of Illinois campus to celebrate the Illinois MBA's Spring Gala. This event completes the ongoing effort to strengthen the long-term bonds between students, professors and the university as a whole.

The event kicked off at 8:00 p.m. and allowed the attendees time to mingle with drinks and appetizers. Later in the evening the crowd was treated to music via a band composed of second-year MBA students. Everyone had a terrific time and was grateful to have a casual environment to reminisce with each other as well as administration and faculty members.



Snehal Sheth ('10), Aashish Shetty ('10), Himanshu Kapoor ('10), Abhishek Aggarwal (visiting friend), Parmesh Venkateswaran ('10) and Chris Greene ('10) enjoy the festivities of Spring Gala at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign.

STUDENT LIFE

Students Honored at Beta Gamma Sigma Induction

by Susan Starrett, Class of 2010

“Honor”, “achievement” and “excellence” are the words that were used to describe this year’s Beta Gamma Sigma business society inductees. Seventeen full-time and Professional MBA students were inducted into the honorary organization this past February.

Professor Steven Michael told the honorees that when he was a student, he was considered a geek, but he went on to say, “No, I am not, because I am accepted into society and will excel in my endeavors in business. So, too, will you be able to succeed in this world, and you will not be called a geek because you are able to achieve great highs in academics.”

Families and friends gathered to support their loved ones as they received their awards in the picturesque atrium of the new Business Instructional Facility. The inductees received honorary braids to be worn with their cap and gown when they graduate in May of this year.

This international honorary society became a part of the University of Illinois in 1913. The society’s goal is to encourage and honor high academic achievement by students in business and management. The organization also fosters an enduring commitment to the founding principles and values: honor and integrity, pursuit of wisdom and earnestness to its members. Beta Gamma Sigma also supports the advancement of business thought and practice to encourage lifelong learning.

The following are the Beta Gamma Sigma recipients for 2009: Kittipong Chintanakarn, David Chonowski, Margaret Cline, Anubhav Gothi, Brian Kritzberg, Brent Maue, Ramakrishna Mulukutla, Emily Nafziger, Chris Pitsikoulis, Matthias Pope, John Powers, Jasen Shrock, Joseph Slonek, Troy Steele, Dwight Steward, Thanwa Wathahong and Roselyne-Odette Yao.

IMBA Students Awarded for Innovation

by Brett Pearce, Class of 2010

On March 11, a team of five first-year Illinois MBA students consisting of Rob Shepherd, Aaron Chan, Kendra Younker, Chang Liu and Wen (Mark) Ye placed second out of eight teams at the Innovation Teams Entrepreneurship Competition. The competition is put on by the Academy of Entrepreneurial Leadership at the University of Illinois and allows students to establish and grow entrepreneurial ventures and to compete for monetary awards.

Team member Rob Shepherd’s PhD research in materials science served as the foundation for the team’s presentation to the judges. The idea, called “cell scaffolding,” serves as a three-dimensional cell culturing tool that can be custom made to closely resemble the type of tissue in which a cell is normally found in the body. For example, if a neuroscientist is researching particular nerve cells from a human brain, a cell scaffolding can be made to resemble brain tissue. The cells can then be extracted from the brain and placed into the scaffolding and studied more effectively. Cell scaffolding has great potential to benefit the areas of tissue engineering, pharmaceutical and nano-medicine and will accordingly be targeted at university researchers and pharmaceutical companies.

The team’s presentation at the competition was the culmination of about six months worth of planning and practice enhanced by the tools and knowledge gained from Professor Tony Mendes’ Foundations of Entrepreneurship class. 3D Ink Solutions, Inc., the name of the team’s company, hopes to turn their experience into an actual start-up company in the near future.



Full-time MBA students David Chonowski (second from left), Jasen Schrock, Roselyne-Odette Yao, Anubhav Gothi, Kittipong Chintanakarn and Joseph Slonek were 2009 inductees to the Beta Gamma Sigma business society for their outstanding academic performance. Altogether, 17 full- and part-time Illinois MBA students were inducted this year.

New Initiative Fosters Camaraderie between Students and Professors

by Smitha Soman, Class of 2010

MBA professors take students into the world of finance, operations, economics or sustainability by sharing all the insights they have gained through their research and prior business careers. They enable students to think and form their own opinions, and they help create students’ futures. What better way is there to thank these professors than to take them out for lunch?

First-year student Sayantan Choudhury recently spearheaded a venture called “Lunch with Professors,” where students can select the professor that they want to take for lunch. Every week, nine lucky students get to take three professors out for lunch in groups of three, which is completely paid by the MBA program. The students pick up the professor of their choice from his or her office and walk to the Illini Union (*continued on page 5*)

STUDENT LIFE

(continued from page 4) Ballroom where they have an afternoon filled with fun, food and lively conversation.

Here are excerpts from what professors, students and Sayantan had to say about this great opportunity:

Professor: I think it is fantastic. The free lunch was great, sure, but it was the company and the conversation that made my day. I would jump at a chance to do it again.

Professor: I very much enjoyed getting to know more about their backgrounds and interests, and what they plan to do when they graduate. I think it is a great idea and I would gladly do it again.

Student: I sincerely think that this initiative will go a long way toward cementing professor-student relationships. My kudos to Sayantan for coming up with such an initiative.

Student: The opportunity to meet with the professor outside of the classroom in a more relaxed and social setting is unique and distinct to the Illinois MBA.

Sayantan: This idea came to me in an attempt to foster the camaraderie between the students and faculty beyond the classroom. The idea is to create a sense of community, and maybe this is just a small gift that we as the Class of 2010 can give to the program.

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go: IMBA Contributes to First Annual Illinois Marathon

by Lauren Johnson, Class of 2010

The morning air was brisk as it hit the lungs of the 9,000+ runners of the first annual Illinois Marathon. Sprinkled among the crowd was a variety of Illinois MBA students, staff and faculty participating in the 5K, half-marathon, marathon relay and full marathon events.

Excitement filled the air as the announcer released waves of runners into the Champaign-Urbana community. As the runners hit the pavement, supportive onlookers welcomed them. Cheering, cow bells, brightly colored signs and banners flooded the streets of the campus. This scene was not limited to the campus. As the runners headed into residential neighborhoods, families lined driveways with lawn chairs, makeshift water stations and signs encouraging runners. Live music was also provided along portions of the course.

The grand finale concluded as the runners ran down a steep decline entering the orange and blue painted field of Memorial Stadium for the final yards of the race. Entering the electric-charged arena filled with family, friends and onlooker, runners found that last bit of energy needed to complete the race. First-year student Scott Madison, who participated in the half-marathon, recapped, "The race is incredible on so many levels. First, there is the excitement of running with over 9,000 people. The fans who crowd the route add the extra motivation to keep going. Finally crossing the finish at the 50-yard line of Memorial Stadium and looking up to witness the culmination on the JumboTron is one of the more fulfilling experiences one can ask for. I can't wait to do it again."

The day's events did not end there. A group of IMBADA members also volunteered for the Youth Run. Cheering on groups of children in a series of races, the volunteers had an enjoyable time working with the kids and parents. The Diversity Association VP of Finance Nicole Wang stated, "Seeing the excitement of the children was the best part of the day."

As students reflected upon this experience, many were filled with a sense of pride. The numerous members of the IMBA Diversity Association (IMBADA) who participated in this event wanted to communicate and promote the importance of health. Many students will soon be embarking upon extremely demanding careers. This event helped remind many of the importance of health in the midst of a busy career.

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