

Sixth Street Journal 2.0

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois MBA

NEWS

IMBA Leads Big Ten MBAA Best Practices Conference

by Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

On Friday, September 22, MBA Association (MBAA) executive boards from three Big Ten schools joined the Illinois MBAA board at the Illini Center in Chicago to discuss best practices and ways to bolster student involvement in events. The conference was the first of its kind and was an Illinois MBAA-led initiative. MBAA President Chris Mulh and Executive Vice President Savva Amusin were inspired to organize this event after attending the 2006 Global Business Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, last April.

Members of Indiana University, Michigan State University and Purdue University joined Mulh and Amusin along with VP of Programs Radhika Makhija and VP of Social Programs Rahul Kalsi in an all-day meeting that included presentations from each program's MBAA president and breakout sessions for each position within the MBAA.

Although each MBAA board talked about room for improvement, the Illinois MBAA was a leader on many key areas, including membership participation and event quality. While other universities struggle with membership levels as low as the mid-60th percentile, the Illinois MBAA enjoys more than 90% participation (100% participation by first-year students). However, other MBA programs, most notably Purdue University and Michigan State University, work with much higher budgets and have found alternative sources of funding to support programming.

A summary of the key highlights from the conference is being completed and will be handed down to the next MBAA board. Chris Mulh will post the final PowerPoint deliverable on FirstClass when it is completed so all students have the opportunity to see how the IMBA compares with other similar schools.

Homecoming Business Bash Welcomes Whirlpool

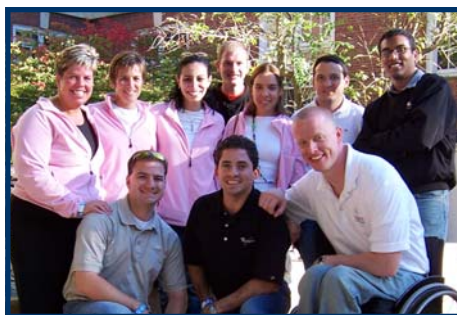
by Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

The College of Business Alumni Association, Executive MBA and MBA Alumni Association added a special guest sponsor to this year's Homecoming Business Bash. Whirlpool Corporation joined students, alumni, faculty and administration from the College of Business for a post-game tailgate following the Illinois Homecoming football game.

Whirlpool had been on campus early in the week to hold an information session and returned the Tuesday following the game to conduct on-campus interviews. The Business Bash took place in the courtyard between David Kinley Hall and Wohlers Hall. The event included gourmet grilled tailgate fare, a cash bar, live music and Illini kid's games.

Whirlpool brought down representatives from their Benton Harbor corporate office, including Illinois MBA alumni Maha El Kharbotly and Dan Poulus as well as UIUC alumni Mark Morrissey and William Waller. Whirlpool also displayed their latest product line at the tailgate and even raffled off a few top items.

Special thanks go out to Tracy McCabe and the entire staff for putting on this well-received event.



Recruiters from Whirlpool Corporation gather at Business Bash. Front row (L to R): Dan Poulus, Tomas Diaz, William Waller. Back row: Abbe Luersman, Pamela Rogers, Maha El Kharbotly, Mark Morrissey, Juanita Duque, Santiago Restrepo, and Shiv Dutt.

NOVEMBER 2006
VOLUME II, ISSUE 3

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 3:** 502 Midterm
- Nov 3:** 1st Annual Alumni Awards Banquet
- Nov 4:** Alumni Awards Tailgate
- Nov 6:** MBAA Officers for Class of 2008, Candidate Platform Speeches
- Nov 14:** WiB Silent Auction
- Nov 17:** WiB Talent Show
- Nov 18:** Thanksgiving Vacation Begins

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Sixth Street Journal 2.0 is a publication of the Illinois MBA, 1407 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801 USA

ADMISSIONS

New Scholarship to Link Alumni with Future Students

by Ben Moreland, Assistant Director of Admissions

For alumni and students of our program, carrying the title “Illinois MBA graduate” is a source of pride. You worked hard to earn that title, and for the rest of your lives, it signifies that you are among an elite group of business professionals.

Starting this year, the Illinois MBA will be implementing a scholarship program that will give alumni the opportunity to further link their names to the Illinois MBA. The MBA Alumni Scholarship program will award scholarships to incoming students who are referred to the admissions office by Illinois MBA alumni or students (note: Recommendations must be made by non-family members.)

If the referred prospect completes the application, meets the competitive admissions requirements and enrolls in the Illinois MBA, a scholarship will be awarded to that individual in the name of the alumnus or student who made the recommendation. Alumni will also be welcome to increase the scholarship amount by their own contribution.

You will soon be contacted with further details on how to officially make a recommendation. If you have any questions or would like more information about this scholarship program, please contact Director of Admissions Jackie Wilson at jjwilson@uiuc.edu.

IBC NEWS

IBC Project Spotlight

by Don Bart, Class of 2007

Illinois Business Consulting has been contracted by a leading global manufacturer of industrial components to conduct market and distribution channel analysis to identify trends, growth opportunities and channel additions or improvements. Some preliminary work has been completed on the project, but the remainder of the deliverable must be produced in only eight weeks.

The engagement manager assigned to this

FACULTY PROFILE

Finance Professor Kannan Enjoys Diversity of MBA Student Body

by Judy McDermott, Class of 2008



Finance professor Srinivasan Kannan is a recipient of the IFC Teaching Excellence Award for the University of Illinois.

University of Illinois clinical professor Srinivasan Kannan knows a thing or two about teaching corporate finance to IMBA students of diverse educational and professional backgrounds, having taught in the program for several years now. In fact, Kannan enjoys the challenge of simultaneously teaching students with and without prior finance coursework experience.

“Each student comes in with a different professional goal, and the challenge for me is to make sure that each student walks

away with a good foundation in financial concepts,” he said. “Everyone should leave the classroom saying, ‘Okay, I’ve got something.’... That is a challenge, but it is rewarding.”

Indeed, it is this fulfillment from teaching that led Kannan to become a professor in the first place. After receiving a degree in mechanical engineering from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Kannan ran his own manufacturing business for ten years (he also received a law degree during this time.) He came to the University of Illinois in 1983 to study for his Masters of Science and PhD in Finance. While studying for his PhD, Kannan was required to teach one semester of finance, and following this semester, Kannan subsequently received the Outstanding Instructor Award, as voted by his students (the award still hangs on his office wall).

It was then that Kannan decided to become a professor instead of returning to the corporate world. He became an assistant professor at Texas A&M University and went on to teach at Colorado State University, the University of Wisconsin and UIUC after that. Notably, he received the IFC Teaching Excellence Award for the University of Illinois in 2002. “Destiny kind of opens a door for you,” Kannan said of his career path.

Now, six years into his tenure as a member of the UIUC faculty, Kannan says he still learns something new with each class he teaches. “The first step to learning is knowing what you don’t know. I always learn something from every class that I teach,” he said.

particularly daunting task is MBA student Clara Spaanstra. A native of Peru, Spaanstra is concentrating in marketing and general management and is currently working on two projects for IBC.

Spaanstra and her team of consultants have been asked to focus only on the client’s flagship line of products and have begun with competitive analysis to learn about the industry before moving onto recommendations.

The team will work to identify industry trends and growth opportunities for the client’s products. Some of this will be done through secondary research of online material available through the university’s resources while additional work will be done to gather primary research through interviews with industry experts.

After identifying growth opportunities, Spaanstra and her team will analyze the opportunities to create recommendations on distribution channel improvements or additions that will enable the client to take full advantage of the market opportunities.



Clara Spaanstra, of Peru, is the engagement manager for an important IBC assignment.

ALUMNI

Upcoming Alumni Awards Banquet to Honor Lubbers

by Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

As part of the first annual Alumni Awards Banquet, the Illinois MBA will be honoring Mr. Paul Lubbers for his presence at multiple MBA events and the value he has added to the program through his work as an MBA Alumni Board Member, mentor and guest speaker.

The Alumni Awards Banquet will give alumni an opportunity to network with students, other alumni, faculty and administration. Several alumni will be in attendance on Friday, November 3, at the Illini Union Ballroom. The banquet will feature an entertaining night of dinner, dancing and special presentations.

The festivities continue on Saturday, November 4, with the Alumni Tailgate before the Fighting Illini play host to #1 ranked Ohio State University football team. The tailgate will take place in the courtyard between David Kinley and Wohlers Halls.

For more information on attending the Alumni Awards Banquet, please contact Radhika Makhija at makhija2@uiuc.edu, and regarding the Alumni Tailgate, please contact Savva Amusin at amusin@uiuc.edu.

Introduction to the Alumni Membership Committee

by Ben Lester, Class of 2006

As fall settles in upon us here in the Midwest I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself and the mission of the Membership Committee of the Illinois MBA Alumni Board.



As one of three committees on the Alumni Board, the Membership Committee is responsible for attracting IMBA alumni who are interested in giving back to our community. The Illinois MBA Alumni Board currently meets every other month at the Illini Center in Chicago and is responsible for several different initiatives that bring

together alumni, students, faculty and administrators.

Naturally, the board requires a lot of input and assistance from our alumni. To fuel these activities, our committee must bring in new people and ideas from graduates of the program like you. Without people like you, it is difficult to successfully connect with current MBA students and provide resources to help Career Quest and other events.

So how can you help? If you're a graduate of the MBA program and would like to get involved with the Alumni Board, please contact me at blester@williamblair.com. We also host a Second Tuesday's event in Chicago each month at the Elephant & Castle Pub located in the Loop at 111 West Adams. This is a fantastic way for alumni from Chicago to stay connected to the Illinois MBA community in a casual setting.

We on the Membership Committee hope you will consider joining the board this year. Please let me know if you have any questions, and please keep in touch.

IMBA Alum Shines at GE

by Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

Christian Palmer, Illinois MBA Class of 2000, credits the University of Illinois's fast-paced MBA curriculum for teaching him how to juggle multiple projects at once. It is a skill that has come in handy in his many roles with General Electric (GE), one in which Christian believes gave him a head start at his first position in GE's Commercial Site Installation team at GE Energy. "The Illinois MBA teaches you how to manage multiple projects at once, to focus on scope, time and cost," said Palmer.

Considering Christian had 40 IT network deployment projects to manage in his first position with GE, having the Illinois Advantage along with a strong IT concentration background made the transition from school back to the workplace a much smoother experience.

With a successful track record as a project leader, Christian continued to explore other professional functions within GE that allowed him to take on new challenges and would draw upon his experi-

ence in the Illinois MBA.

In his second role as part of the Acquisition Integration team, Christian traveled across the United States working with the IT integration team to identify new business opportunities that fit with GE's business strategy. He later leveraged the lessons learned from data analysis in pursuit of a Six Sigma Black Belt certification specific to financial process improvement.

"Understanding statistics is more vital than you might think," said Palmer.

"Companies expect you to be comfortable with data-driven decision making. We focus on structured thinking using statistical theory and applications. Using statistical tools, we must justify that changes are needed and demonstrate results."

Today, Christian is taking on a transition role as an Infrastructure Leader, which for him is an opportunity to dive into Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) applications. Christian sees this position as an opportunity to branch out in a new area and gain more depth and broad knowledge in the ERP environment. "It is important to understand the success factors of upward mobility and be open to broadening yourself, even if it means getting into uncomfortable areas," said Palmer.



Christian Palmer graduated from the Illinois MBA in 2000 with an IT concentration. He and his wife Kristin have two children ages 2 and 5. In his free time, Christian enjoys traveling across the country with his family. He also enjoys non-fiction business books and technology news. His side-job at GE is the U of I Student Organizations Manager for the GE Executive Recruiting Team..

NEWS

Message from the Associate Dean

by Mary Miller, Associate Dean

Fall not only brings Halloween and cooler weather to Illinois, it also marks the time when the media begin to publish their new MBA rankings. If a school does well, there are



celebrations; if they go down, everyone is disappointed. Rankings may be useful at some level, but they do not represent the whole picture.

Currently, there are 528 accredited business schools eligible to be ranked. Each publication has its own ranking system. Hard data such as GMAT scores, undergraduate grades, faculty publications, admission and placement data, and a host of other factors are often incorporated. In addition, opinions and feedback from students, alumni, recruiters and/or deans are also part of the process to varying degrees even though they are much harder to assess.

Like Illinois, most schools complete numerous questionnaires each year. While this is tedious and time-consuming, the more troubling aspect is that we rarely know how our answers will be used, weighted or evaluated. In addition, we are told that if we attempt to influence the rankings, we risk disqualification.

When the rankings are published, most of us look at the list, congratulate ourselves for making a good choice if "our" school was ranked favorably, or show concern if the school did not fare so well. To understand what rankings are really trying to measure, it requires studying the ranking methodologies. The criteria used by various ranking organizations may or may not accurately reflect what we value most about our school.

Long-term success necessitates that we focus on our strengths and what makes us most proud. It requires that we constantly try to improve what we do, and that we all

take pride in being part of the Illinois family beginning when we first step on this campus and continuing throughout our lives.

What I am suggesting is that there is more to a school than just its ranking. Do we want Illinois to be ranked #1? Of course we do. However, let's remember why we chose Illinois. I came here because I wanted to work at a great business school with Dean Ghosh, to interact with talented faculty and students, and to engage terrific alumni to make the Illinois MBA the best it can be. I haven't changed my mind, and I hope you haven't either.

GMA Hosts Trio of Events

by Daniel Remsen, GMA President

The Graduate Marketing Association (GMA) was busy during the month of September, having hosted three events representative of the organization's educational and social goals. On September 19, the GMA hosted a Procter & Gamble recruiting breakfast. Over 35 members of the IMBA attended the event in the Ford Room. P&G detailed a career in Customer Business Development over muffins and coffee and illustrated the company's recruiting process to marketing students.

Volition, a local Champaign game developer was on campus two days later to detail the marketing strategy of bringing "Saints Row" from a creative thought all the way into the mass market. "Saints Row" is the number one Xbox 360 game in the world right now. Many students participated in the informative presentation, and Volition agreed to tour their facilities in downtown Champaign to a select group of "gamers."

Finally, marketing faculty and MBA marketing students gathered on September 22 at Jillian's to socialize in a marketing-centric environment.

GMA would also like to congratulate the following first-years who applied to be part of the GMA Steering Committee. The committee is dedicated to smoothly transitioning the club from second- to first-year students and will be instrumental in the future success of marketing in the Illinois MBA. The new members include Hannah Busaban, George Kritikos, Michael Lewis, Mirela Muresan and Kunal Talwar.

CAREER SERVICES

MBA Career Services Appreciates Your Support

by Julie Sweet, Associate Director of Career Services

Illinois MBA Career Services has seen many alumni give back to the MBA program this year by volunteering at our CareerQuest event in Chicago, visiting campus to recruit students or being a speaker for our MBA career management class. Various class topics have included case interviewing success, how to evaluate career opportunities and discussions of the types of positions offered within different functions (finance, marketing, etc.). Our goal is to continue presenting students with occasions to connect with our alumni and solicit advice on developing a plan for their future careers.

For those of you who live far from Illinois, we offer the EASE alumni database (www.easemba.com/mbauic/) as a way to stay connected to our students. When you register in the database, you will be able to check a box saying you are willing to serve as a contact for IMBA students. This allows our students to contact you when they have an interest in your industry and/or company.

If you would like to get involved in any of our career services activities, please email MBAcareerservices@uiuc.edu and let us know your level of interest. Our students have found great value in becoming more connected to our alumni.

Please also remember that we offer free résumé referrals and job-posting services to all employers. If your company is hiring and would like to consider IMBA candidates for internships and/or full-time opportunities, please contact us by email.



Volition presents their marketing strategy for bringing their popular Xbox 360 game Saints Row into the mass market.

STUDENTS

IMBA Students Support St. Jude's At Chili's

by Mark Lewis, Class of 2008

On Monday, September 25, Chili's Restaurants sponsored a nationwide fundraising effort in which their partner restaurants pledged all proceeds from that day to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Some 35 IMBA students supported the cause by dining at the Chili's restaurant in Champaign that evening.

Mark Lewis, Class of 2008 student and coordinator for the MBA Service Association, saw this as a great opportunity for MBA students to come together in support of this cause. "I saw this as a unique way for the MBA family to come together in an atmosphere that provided a good meal, a good social environment and ultimately served a greater cause," stated Lewis. "Those of us that attended that night knew deep down that we were helping tomorrow's children, and that meant something to each of us."

Radhika Makhija, MBA class of 2007, echoed those sentiments. "Every time I would see a St. Jude's infomercial on TV, tears would start welling up in my eyes. I really wanted to do something for those children suffering from cancer, and Chili's provided me an opportunity to do that. Thanks Chili's, MSA and Mark!"

The students convened at Chili's around 8:30 p.m. to enjoy supper and the company of their classmates. Everyone who

attended knew they were a part of something special and equally proud that their classmates were there to share it with them. "I have been a St. Jude Partner in Hope for many years, so I was proud that in a small, but significant way, the Illinois MBA helped save a child's life that evening," noted Chaz Hinkle, MBA Class of 2008 student.

ABS Karaoke Night a Hit

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007

More than 100 students participated in the Asian Business Society's (ABS) Karaoke Night event on September 15. The festivities, held at Evo Café on campus, included nonstop singing all through the night.

Songs in several different languages, such as Chinese, Korean, Thai, Japanese, Spanish and English, could be heard throughout the evening as students from around the world showed their talent. Taiwanese students performed many deep-feeling, sad love songs, while Thai students picked lighthearted dance songs. Affectionate love tunes were also sung by students from South America.

Asian snacks and soft drinks were enjoyed by everyone in attendance. In fact, some ABS members prepared cookies made by rice and green tea drinks imported from Korea and Japan.

"The Karaoke Night was really a big hit. We thank everyone who joined us, and we look forward to the next opportunity to sing together!" said Jerry Jung, president of the Asian Business Society.



MBA students gather outside Chili's after enjoying a meal that generated financial support for St. Jude's Children's Research.



MBA Clubs Prepare For First Global Business Conference

by Judy McDermott, Class of 2008, and Monica Belalcazar, Chairperson of GBC Committee

The Latin American Business Society, the MBAs of Color, the Asian Business Society and the International Business Society (IBS) have been feverishly preparing for the IMBA's first ever Global Business Conference (GBC). The conference, "Giving Leaders of Business a Lift," is set to take place on November 10 in the Levis Faculty Center.

The conference will reflect on the state of the new global economy from the perspectives of such guest speakers as Claudia Knowlton-Chike, director of global supply chain at Motorola; Barbara Thomas, president of the National Black MBA Association; and Manuel Favela, chief financial officer of McDonald's Latin America. The event will examine the latest business trends, the future drivers of the global economy and what new opportunities business professionals are exploring in the Asian and the American continents.

The GBC invites professionals from all over the world to join for a candid dialogue of how businesses are adjusting to global competition and what will happen in their own countries in the next five to ten years.

Students have been raising funds in support of the event via various initiatives such as "Coffee Club," in which Starbucks coffee is sold to MBA students and faculty every morning. IBS also hosted a German October Fest on October 20 to raise funds, while the GBC fund raising committee held a silent date auction in which students bid for other students who offered to make them lunch or dinner.

The fundraising committee is also offering corporate sponsorships for the event. Please contact Rashed Din for details on sponsorship packages: rdin1@uiuc.edu.

CLUB ROUNDUP

GFA Teams Competing in IPO Challenge

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007

The Graduate Finance Association (GFA) actively participated in the National IPO Challenge hosted by the University of Chicago GSB's Investment Banking Group (IBG). Five second-year students and 15 first-year students formed four teams to hone their evaluation skills and initial public offering (IPO) knowledge.

Beyond encouraging IMBA students to participate in the national case competition, GFA also offered a series of training sessions to help all participants to prepare well. Professor Dan O'Connell was invited to discuss some key concepts of evaluation methods and case analysis techniques.

All IMBA participants were enthusiastic about the competition. They actively brought in related readings to sharpen each other's understanding of IPOs. Company Securities and Exchange Commission filings and articles relating to evaluation methods from Harvard Business Review were shared and fully discussed across teams.

The National IPO Challenge included two phases. The first phase valuation exercise was distributed to all registered groups on October 14, and responses to this exercise had to be submitted electronically within 48 hours. Only 15 teams would be selected to participate in the second phase—the main competition.

Fifteen teams from accredited MBA programs will compete to analyze and pitch a proposed IPO transaction. Each team needs to demonstrate its ability in evaluating the offering, developing a structure and applying the best price for the transaction. The presentation will be delivered to a Board of Directors, formed by investment banking professionals and Chicago GSB professors.

The GFA will hold a follow-up session, which will focus on improving presentation skills and providing feedback on the technical aspects of student presentations.

Speed Networking Event Brings First- and Second-years Together

by Sharon Yoon, Assistant Director of Student Affairs

More than 70 IMBA students gathered for a series of seven-minute, one-on-one exchanges on the evening of September 28. This event, coordinated by MBA Career Services and Student Affairs, had one purpose: to get first- and second-year students to network with each other.

Upon arrival, each participant was given a network card and asked to begin at an assigned station. Julie Sweet, Associate Director of Career Services, signaled the start of round one. Students were given a limited amount of time to get to know the individual sitting across from them, learn about their concentrations and discuss job opportunities. Then, following a schedule of rotations, participants scrambled from station to station.

With each new partner, students began conversations with the questions provided on the network card. These questions included introductions, career goals and internship and job opportunities. Everyone exchanged as much information as possible until the whistle blew to indicate the next rotation. "Getting to know other MBA students and finding out how we can help each other achieve our career goals is so valuable. I could do this for hours!" exclaimed Radhika Makhija, a second-year student, as she proceeded to her next station.

Preceding this event was a campaign to "Race for Speed Networking," where

first- and second-year students competed to get the most participants to attend the event. The second-years won this year's trophy, with over 50% of their available class in attendance.

WiB Silent Auction to Return

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007

The Women in Business Society (WiB) plans to host its second annual silent auction in mid-November. Proceeds from the event will support WiB and local charity yet to be identified.

If the success of last year's auction is any indication, then this year's auction is set to be a hit. The most sought-after prize last year was dinner with University President Joseph B. White. Dinner with accounting Professor Ken Trotman, the wine connoisseur, was also a sought-after prize for four winners and their friends. Chances to have dinner with professors Joe Broschak and Nick Petruzzi were also popular bidding items last year.

"We are all very excited about this year's auction because the funds will not only help WiB, but also a local charity. We are also working hard to invite more professors to participate in the meaningful and enjoyable event," said Margretta Angdjarrin, president of WiB.

Swapna Kulkarni, director of WiB programs, is organizing the auction. "Last year's activity was such a success that we definitely wish to keep improving and expanding on it," said Kulkarni. "Several capable first-year students are enthusiastically involved in the event," she noted.



Second-year MBA students gather around their trophy for having the better turnout at Speed Networking.

CLUB ROUNDUP

LABS/Get Fit Soccer Challenge a Success

by Clara Spaanstra, Class of 2007

The Latin American Business Society (LABS) and the Get Fit Club hosted the Fall Soccer Challenge on October 15. Approximately 30 participants enjoyed a high-energy soccer match along with refreshments given by the two clubs. Four teams demonstrated enthusiasm and courage on the field: Los Renegados, My Little Pony, Green Peace and Brave Hearts.

Special congratulations go out to Los Renegados (Pablo Barreda, Rob White, Rodrigo de Figueiredo, Bhavik Rathod, Nick Lenczycki and Vivek Verma), which defeated My Little Pony (Ken Miyake, Taihei Okabe, Ethan Park, Toshihiko Sakitani, Rashed Din, T.J. Houren, Chris Mulh and Matt Arient) in the championship game, 3-2. The prize was a LABS/Get Fit Fall Soccer Challenge plaque that will be hung on the fourth floor of David Kinley Hall.



The members of the winning team, Los Renegados, in the Soccer Challenge show how tenaciously they protected their own goal. From L to R: Rob White, Nick Lenczycki, Bhavik Rathod, Pablo Barreda, Rodrigo de Figueiredo and Vivek Verma.

IBS Panel Sheds Light on Various Internship Experiences

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007

Second-year MBA students shared their distinctive internship experiences in the United States and abroad at the International Business Society's (IBS) Global Internship Panel held on September 25.

International student Zivar Hallaji, class of

2007, described her success in attaining a consulting internship at U.S. energy company PFC Energy this past summer simply by making a few phone calls. "You have to have perseverance, and you really need to identify who has projects on hand that you can help with," said Hallaji. Hallaji's performance was so outstanding that the energy company invited her to come back after graduation.

Meanwhile, Radhika Makhija described her internship experience with General Electric in Florence, Italy, this past summer. "We worked with local staffs closely," noted Makhija. To better enjoy an experience abroad, Makhija suggested learning some basic phrases in the native language of the country where the internship is located. Plus, she advised students to apply for a working visa and other related documents as soon as possible to avoid any hold-ups in the internship start date.

After the panel discussion, a guest speaker from the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), Associate Director Lynnea Johnson, described the resources available at CIBER. The center not only supports students in search of international experiences, but it also offers business language classes. For more information, please visit www.ciber.uiuc.edu.

MSA Provides Support for Special Olympics

by Kent Hammack, Class of 2007

October was a busy month for the MBA Service Association (MSA). The MSA's revitalized support for Special Olympics Illinois continued with a respectable third-place overall finish at the Special Olympics Golf Scramble held at the Urbana Country Club on October 2. Second-year MBAs Mark Lockwood, Chris Mulh and Kent Hammack were joined by Professor Joe Broschak in the event.

Georgeann Knowlton, Special Olympics Area Director, reported that the event surpassed expectations, providing over \$10,000 to fund area athletes. For more information on Special Olympics Illinois, visit their website at www.soill.org.

Meanwhile, the First Annual MSA Charity Tailgate on October 14 was a huge suc-



A golf team representing the MBA Service Association (MSA) took part in the Special Olympics Golf Scramble at Urbana Country Club, finishing third place overall. Pictured here (L to R) are Kent Hammack (Class of 2007), Mark Lockwood (MSA president), Professor Joe Broschak, and Chris Mulh (Class of 2007).

cess, collecting over \$1,000 for the Campaign County Christian Health Center (CCCHC). The organizers arrived at around 8 a.m. to stake claim to a prime location along Kirby Avenue, marking the spot with a vintage IMBA tailgate sandwich board found hiding in the attic at David Kinley Hall.

First-year MBA student Ed Austin amazed everyone with his exceptional grilling skills and warmed us all with his spicy soup. Jeff Trask, CCCHC Administrative Coordinator, was impressed with the turnout and noted MSA's donation as "significant." For more information on CCCHC and their mission, visit its website at www.ccchc2003.org.

Looking forward, the MSA is planning another exciting Special Olympics event that promises to be the best one yet: The 2007 Special Olympics POLAR PLUNGE will be held in March. First-year MBA Mark Lewis is currently recruiting contestants for this event.

