

Sixth Street Journal 2.0

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois MBA

NEWS

Ping Fu: Keynote Speaker for the Fourth Annual Women in Business Conference

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007



Ping Fu will be the keynote speaker for the Fourth Annual Women in Business Conference.

The Fourth Annual Women in Business Conference will be held on February 10, 2007, at the Illini Union. The theme of the conference is “Leading Change – From Inspiration to Performance,” and the event highlight will be a keynote speech from Ping Fu, 2005’s Entrepreneur of the Year according to *Inc.* magazine. Fu founded Geomagic and led the company from a start-up to an industry leader. With Fu at the helm, Geomagic’s revenue has grown by 2,105% to \$30 million within five years.

What makes these results particularly outstanding is that Fu did not attend school between the ages of 7 and 18. She grew up in the Chinese Cultural Revolution era, and was deprived the right to learn at a young age. After schools reopened, she entered university and conducted research on infanticide, which led to worldwide publicity but also sent her to jail. She arrived in the United States as a Chinese exile in the early 1980s, while she only knew three English words and phrases: “Please,” “Thank You,” and “Help.”

Fu went to the University of New Mexico to study English, and later earned a Masters of Science in Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While at Illinois, she worked at Bell Labs and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications where she met a professor named Herbert Edels-

brunner, who became Fu’s husband and the co-founder of Geomagic. Fu also teamed up with OSBI Consulting (now titled Illinois Business Consulting (IBC)), praising the organization and its director, Paul Magelli, for their knowledge and efforts.

For more details about the Women in Business Conference, please contact Margretta Angdjasrin: mangdja2@uiuc.edu.

Global Business Conference Gives Future IMBA Leaders Lift

by Judy McDermott, Class of 2008

The Global Business Conference (GBC), “Giving Leaders of Business a Lift,” held on November 10 in collaboration with four IMBA clubs, was a successful day filled with animated guest speakers who discussed the importance of looking at the business world from an increasingly global perspective.

The Latin American Business Society, the MBAs of Color, the Asian Business Society and the International Business Society put on the event at the Levis Faculty Center. Almost 100 students, faculty members and outside guests enjoyed keynote speeches, breakaway sessions and a raffle of two Motorola Razr phones.

The conference began with a presentation from Claudia Knowlton-Chike, director of global supply chain at Motorola, and later included a lunch-time keynote address from Manuel Favela, chief financial officer of McDonald’s Latin America. Favela discussed several points about McDonald’s business strategy as well as more personal points, such as the importance of maintaining integrity and self identity throughout your career.

A special thank you goes out to conference chairperson Monica Belalcazar, whose hard work allowed this conference to happen. In addition, a thank you goes out to the entire GBC board of first-year and second-year IMBAs. The success of the event seals its prospects of becoming an annual event for years to come.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 1:** WiB Talent Show
- Dec 5:** Last day of class!
- Dec 7:** MBA I final exams begin
- Dec 8:** Club Officers Elections for the Class of 2008, winners announced
- Dec 11:** MBA 2 final exams begin
- Dec 11:** Applied Business Perspectives begins
- Jan 6:** Part-Time MBA Pre-term
- Jan 16:** Back to School Picnic

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ADMISSIONS

Putting Together the Class of 2009

by Ben Moreland, Assistant Director of Admissions

A new admissions cycle for the Illinois MBA is now underway, and before long the applications will be pouring in from prospects hoping to join the Class of 2009. We are off to a good start, with an unexpected number of applications having been submitted prior to the early application deadline of December 15.

The admissions team will be working hard to encourage prospective students to apply, but as usual, the more help we receive from the larger Illinois MBA community, the more successfully we will attract great candidates for admission to our program.

The admissions staff would like to thank Hideaki Uchida (Class of 2005) and Eriko Ito (Class of 2005) for holding two informational sessions for prospective MBA students: one at the Princeton Review of Japan and another at the Institute of Foreign Study.

When asked what motivated him to organize the sessions, Uchida answered, "I love the Illinois MBA and want to contribute to it. I learned a lot from the Illinois MBA faculty and my classmates, enjoyed life in Urbana-Champaign, and was able to get a great job in Tokyo afterwards. I want to let Japanese applicants know how wonderful our program is and, as a result, improve the quality of students at the Illinois MBA."

If you would like to hold a similar session in your home city, contact the admissions office to request brochures and other materials to hand out to potential students. You can contact admissions by email at mba@uiuc.edu or by phone at 217-244-7602.

Hideaki Uchida spreads his enthusiasm for the Illinois MBA by holding informational events in Japan.



SOCIAL EVENTS

Students Have a Blast at Halloween Barn Dance

by Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

The Illinois MBA Association hosted a Halloween Barn Dance on Saturday, October 28, at Farm Lake near the University of Illinois. Students arrived in costume for a haunting evening complete with hayrides, a costume contest and a bonfire to help keep the guys and ghouls warm amidst the crisp fall night.

For many international students, this was their first experience celebrating Halloween. For others, it was a chance to take a break from assignments or simply an excuse to dust off their favorite Halloween costumes, which had been sitting in the back of their closets.

The farm was decorated in a Halloween theme with pumpkins and spider webs, and a DJ played classic Halloween tunes and led country and western line dances. Thank you to everybody who helped set up and attended this event. We hope to have an even greater turnout next year.



IMBA students Savva Amusin (Spiderman), Anyu Chang (Cleopatra), and Bryan White (Gas Station Attendant) dress up for the Barn Dance.



IMBA students Clara Spaanstra (Flapper) and Monica Belalcazar (Angel) are in the Halloween spirit.

CAREER SERVICES

Fall Recruiting Results in Great Opportunities for Students

by Julie Sweet, Associate Director of Career Services

Illinois MBA Career Services is completing our on-campus fall recruiting season, and we have hosted 25 MBA-focused companies for on-campus interviews (up almost 80% from last fall), and we have posted an additional 30 job postings since September 1.

This has been a great opportunity to bring some new employers to campus, as well as host some companies that have not recruited from the IMBA program in a few years. Some of these include Huron Consulting, Sears Holdings Corporation, Whirlpool and Deloitte Consulting.

Our students are starting to receive offers from many of the companies that have been recruiting. The 2007 recruiting season (for full-time and internship placement) will kick off on January 30 and 31, which is when the Spring Business Career Fair at the Illini Union will take place.

If your company would like to consider MBA candidates for internship or full-time opportunities or would like to take part in the Spring Business Career Fair, please contact mbacareerservices@uiuc.edu or log onto your employer account in EASE (<http://www.easemba.com/mbauic/>) for more information.

NEWS

NAWMBA Conference a Memorable Experience

by Min Ju Lee, Class of 2008

Some first-year IMBA students took their midterm exams at 6 a.m. on November 3 just so they could attend The National Association of Woman MBAs (NAWMBA) Conference and Career Fair at the Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis on November 3 and 4. First-year students in attendance included Min Ju Lee, Dianne Gregory, Kate Kim and Tina Yu. Second-year attendees included Mona Haggag, Emily Yeh and Margretta Angdjrasin.

As a state-wide level event, the conference was very well-organized and professional. The career fair is thought to be the most excellent aspect of the event, largely due to the quality of the attending companies. Each IMBA student in attendance had the chance to hold detailed conversations with recruiters about their careers; they also discussed their personal fit with potential employers.

The speakers and panels aspect of the conference was also valuable. Students listened to successful businesswomen as they discussed how they gained success and balanced their jobs and family. IMBA attendees also had the opportunity to meet other female MBA students from other schools. "These conversations made me take a look at myself and compose my thoughts for the rest of my MBA experience," said Lee.

The conference ended with the announcement that the University of Maryland would host next year's NAWMBA conference, providing another opportunity in 2007 for female IMBA students to visit another school and meet more MBA contacts.



Min Ju Lee, Tina Yu, Kate Kim, Dianne Gregory, Margretta Angdjrasin and Mona Haggag enjoy a nice meal at the 2006 NAWMBA Conference.

PROFILE

Professor Aguilera Casts International Light on IMBA Program

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007

Fluent in five languages, University of Illinois Professor Ruth Aguilera has conducted research in Berlin, Madrid, Milan and Tokyo. With a degree in economics from the University of Barcelona and a PhD in Sociology from Harvard University, Aguilera's research interests lie at the intersection of economic sociology and international management.

Raising student awareness toward cultural diversity and encouragement of students to think globally are the key goals of Aguilera in her global strategy class. The class covers diverse issues in cross-border mergers and acquisitions, negotiation in different cultures and global corporate strategy.

Born in Catalonia, Spain, Aguilera lived in different European countries from a young age, and these experiences sparked her interest in international issues. Her cross-continental background solidifies her comparative studies in corporate governance, organizational theory and corporate social responsibility.

Aguilera is also interested in the role of women and human capital in today's global business world. Each employee has his or her own cultural baggage and family relations, such as children and parents to take care of, and that affects how we all participate in this world, she believes. How to view each individual in a larger social web is the essence of caring for human capital.

Aguilera's most memorable experiences took place in Japan. "The culture is very different from Europe and America." Taiwan and Korea are the next stops on Aguilera's travel itinerary, after recently returning from a month in China.

Outside of the university, Aguilera cherishes the time she spends with family and friends. Traveling and cooking Catalan food are her favorite hobbies. Married and with one son, Aguilera is expecting twin daughters this December.



Ruth Aguilera's vast international experiences make her well-qualified to teach global strategy in the Illinois MBA.

ALUMNI

First Annual Alumni Banquet and Tailgate a Success

by Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

More than 150 students, faculty, administration and alumni filled the Illini Union Ballroom on Friday, November 3, for the first Annual Alumni Awards Banquet, which honored Paul Lubbers, Class of 2001. Alumni from as far as Washington D.C. joined in the evening's festivities, which included dinner, the awards presentation and dancing.

The Illinois MBA was delighted to honor Paul Lubbers with the event's inaugural award. Paul has been an active supporter of the Illinois MBA. He currently serves as President of the Illinois MBA Alumni Association. He has been a familiar face to the current MBA classes as a participant in PreTerm the past two years, serving as a guest speaker in 2005 and as a panelist at this year's CareerQuest event in Chicago. Paul is truly an ambassador for the program, actively working to improve the relationship between alumni and current students.



IMBA alumni Paul Lubbers, Elizabeth Lubbers, and Jim Suggs enjoy the banquet.

The Friday-night event was followed by a Saturday-morning football tailgate in the IMBA business quad, which was attended by faculty, students and alumni.

Thank you to everybody who helped make these events possible and for all in attendance. A special thank you goes out to IMBA alumni who helped make this a very special weekend.

The New-Look Second Tuesdays in Chicago

by Leah Pettit, Class of 2003

For those of you who do not know me, I am the new recruit for the Professional Development/Networking Committee. I hope to meet many of you soon! As you may have read in the April 2006 issue of the *Sixth Street Journal 2.0*, Illinois MBA alumni who live or work in Chicago have the opportunity to connect with each other during our Second Tuesdays events.

My first priority on the committee is to put some spark into our Second Tuesdays gatherings. So let me begin by giving you the 101 on this great event. As you probably have figured out, Second Tuesdays is held on the second Tuesday of every month. The event is hosted by the College of Business Alumni and MBA Alumni Associations. This networking event was organized to enable alumni to catch up with old friends, make new ones and do a little business networking all at the same time. So why haven't you been to a Second Tuesday?

Furthermore, we would like to make this event more than just food, beverages and socializing. We are looking to improve the event by finding corporate sponsorships, increasing involvement from alumni through committee involvement, hosting CBA and MBA

recruiting events and founding or contributing to a scholarship fund for the College of Business.

So, if you have not yet had the opportunity to attend, we would enjoy having you! Second Tuesdays is held at the Elephant & Castle Pub from 5–7 p.m. at 111 W. Adams Street (near the El and Metra). Light nibbles are provided.

NEWS

First-Year Students Have Weekly Lunches with Dean

by Anna-lisa Peter, Class of 2008

To help build a strong relationship between the administration and students, the Student Academic Council has helped implement a program in which Dean Miller meets weekly with select first-year students to engage in conversation and eat lunch in a comfortable setting.

To date, Dean Miller has met with more than half of the first-year MBA student body, in groups of 20 each. The meetings are held on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m., and lunch is provided by Blues, a local barbecue restaurant. At each meeting, the Dean begins by listing an agenda, which is to simply eat lunch and talk. Each student is given the opportunity to say something about him or herself—something not many people in the program know.

These meetings proved to be enlightening, not only to the Dean, but to many students in attendance. Students spoke about their hobbies and exhilarating experiences, which include skydiving in Switzerland, scuba diving in Taiwan and building radios. Some even spoke of their intentions to go back home to take care of their parents after they complete the IMBA.

So, is the goal of "Lunches with the Dean" being accomplished? "Definitely," said Noel Vivar, Student Academic Council member. "Not only is the Dean learning new things about us and vice versa, but we are also discovering new and exciting things about our classmates."



MBA students Mike Lewis, Nicki Chiu and Chris Mulh are all dressed up at the Alumni Banquet.

NEWS

Message from the Associate Dean

by Mary Miller, Associate Dean

This is the last issue of the *Sixth Street Journal 2.0* for 2006. As the year comes to a close, I'd like to take a few minutes to reflect on the semester and also to thank the current MBAA officers—Chris Mulh, Savva Amusin, Grace Lo, Rahul Kalsi, and Radhika Makhija—for their exemplary service to the Illinois MBA. It has been a pleasure to work with them, and I am proud of what they have accomplished during their year in office.



It has been an active fall, and I congratulate the students on their new initiatives. I am especially pleased that for the first time four clubs (LABS, MBAs of Color, ABS and IBS) joined together to sponsor our first Global Business Conference. I'm also proud of the MBAA for establishing an alumni award, which was recently presented to Paul Lubbers, Director of Affinity Global Practice Group at Aon, at the first annual Alumni Awards Banquet.

We also hosted some great alumni speakers on campus for our "Conversation with Leaders" series: Doris Christopher, founder and chairman of The Pampered Chief; Mark Essig, president and CEO of Barjan Products; Darryl Cheeks, president and CEO of DKL Enterprises; Chris Cole, CFO of McDonald's USA; and Rafael Colorado, director, product marketing & strategy for Motorola. They shared their wisdom, and we learned from all of them.

So as 2006 comes to a close, I want to thank all of you for your continued interest and support of the Illinois MBA. We have high expectations for 2007. Happy Holidays!

MBAA NEWS

New MBAA Board Elected for 2007

by Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

We are pleased to announce the new Illinois MBAA Executive Board:

President – (Thomas) Ed Austin

Ed served the past nine years in the U.S. Army Aviation where he directly supervised subordinates ranging in number from four to 70, including two combat tours. He earned a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.



VP of Finance – Amy Wu

Amy, a native of Taiwan, spent the past two years working for Far Eastern International Bank. Her responsibilities as a Foreign Exchange (FX) trader included managing a \$5 million FX portfolio. Amy earned a Bachelors of Arts in Economics from National Chengchi University in 2004.



VP of Programs – Martin Lauw

Martin worked the past four years at Unilever in Paraguay in the finance department as a controller and more recently in brand management in the marketing department. Martin graduated with a degree in economics from the Catholic University of Asunción. His undergraduate experience included serving as Trustee of the



Students Association of the College of Business and Economics in 2001.

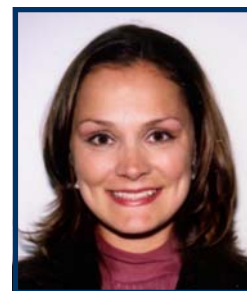
VP of Alumni Affairs – Mike Lewis

Fittingly, Mike is an alumnus of the University of Illinois with degrees in economics and political science. He has spent the last nine years in roles of increasing responsibility in sales and marketing, most recently for AT&T in Chicago as a global services account manager.



VP of Social Programs – Judy McDermott

Judy served as a financial journalist and editor in New York City for four years before joining the Illinois MBA. She has also freelanced for the Event Marketing Resource Group, doing promotional work for social events at various venues in New York City, including New Year's Eve 2003 and 2004 at the Theater at Madison Square Garden.



VP of Communications – David Payne

David worked as a website designer during his undergraduate years at Brigham Young University. His technical skills include advanced HTML, Javascript and Flash design. David previously served as a software developer for a trade show company. He continues to do website design for both corporate and academic institutions.



Also, make sure to check the next issue of *Sixth Street Journal 2.0* for the results of the 2007 Club Elections.

CLUB ROUND UP

MSA Reflects on a Successful Fall Semester

by Mark Lockwood, President, MBA Service Association

A year comes to a close, and what a semester it has been! The MBA Service Association (MSA) has continued the tradition of the sober driver at all alcohol-serving events, donated over \$1,000

in contributions from a fund raising tailgate and had strong involvement with I-Help, a day of service by University of Illinois students.

Additional projects and support have been provided to Habitat for Humanity and the Special Olympics. You may also notice as you drive through Urbana that a two-mile stretch of Highway 45 has been adopted by the MSA. It has already been cleaned once.



Mark Lockwood presents a check to Jeff Trask of Champaign County Christian Health Center (CCCHC).



First-year IMBA students George Kritikos, Mark Lewis and Brett Klinker round up food for the charity food drive benefiting the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

As we approach the holiday season, it is vital to remember the importance of service in every community. Along with Brett Klinker and George Kritikos, the MSA helped the Eastern Illinois Foodbank by collecting more than \$700 in donations this Thanksgiving season. Indeed, the MSA and two exceptionally strong MBA classes have combined this year to make an impact in the Urbana-

Champaign community.

I want to take this time to thank all of the volunteers and members of the MSA. It has been a wonderful year of helping, and I believe that we have truly made a difference. Soon there will be a new leadership team in place, and knowing those who are running for office, it will be excellent. My fellow MSA leaders Kent Hammack and Kapil Rajurkar, I thank you for your support, and I wish you the happiest of holiday seasons.

Mary Kay Comes to Campus

by Judy McDermott, Class of 2008

The Women in Business Society (WiB) recently helped several of its members get all dolled up—holding a Mary Kay Makeover Night. Students gathered in the MBA Club Room on October 26 to be pampered, try out new kinds of makeup and have the opportunity to purchase makeup.

The event was especially helpful for some students who wanted to learn about how to apply makeup, proper colors and new products. “I am always interested in seeing what new products are out there. Plus, this event was a nice way to wind down at the end of the school week,” said first-year MBA student attendee, Anna-lisa Peter.

Highlights of the event included a satin hands spa treatment, a satin lips mask treatment and a full facial cleansing and makeup application. A special thank you goes out to second-year student Gizem Yazici for arranging the event and finding the local Mary Kay representative.



The Women in Business Club enjoy testing out new make-up and skin care techniques at Mary Kay night. The students were able to relax from the stress of being an MBA student.

Reminder: December 1 (tonight) is the Women in Business Talent Show. The event will be held in 370 Wohlers Hall from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. This is your chance to see the extracurricular talents within the Illinois MBA community.

CLUB ROUND UP

LABS Students Attend the NSHMBA Conference

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007

Students in the Latin American Business Society (LABS) attended the 17th Annual National Society of Hispanic MBAs (NSHMBA) Conference and Career Fair on October 27 and October 28 in Cincinnati, Ohio. All IMBA students in attendance also served as event volunteers.

The career-fair portion of the event opened the door to many internship and job opportunities for IMBA students, as more than 300 Fortune 500 companies were on site, offering opportunities for students across all concentrations.

Pablo Barreda, a first-year student, successfully secured an onsite interview with Johnson & Johnson at the event. This subsequently led him to a second-round interview and an internship offer with Johnson & Johnson. Martin Lauw, a first-year student expected to concentrate in marketing, interviewed with Colgate-Palmolive for a Global Marketing Intern position.

Both students expressed that the onsite interviews were mainly behavioral, which is an interview format that expects interviewees to demonstrate examples of their abilities to work in teams and analyze situations. "Colgate-Palmolive planned to hire 18 students for the marketing intern position and interviewed around 300 candidates. It was highly competitive," noted Lauw.

The NSHMBA conference also prepared a detailed company list, which indicated whether the companies provided visa sponsorships or international opportunities. The list helped attendees to use their time well and saved compa-

nies time answering visa-related questions.

Graduate Finance Association Fall Semester in Review

by Nadeem Mehar, President, Graduate Finance Association

This was a dynamic semester for the Graduate Finance Association (GFA). Fifty-five first-year students enthusiastically joined the association in August and participated in events throughout the semester. Some highlights include:



Martin Lauw, Cesar Argueta, Monica Belalcazar and Clara Spaanstra at the 2006 NSHMBA Conference.

Jim Keating, an associate with Illinois Ventures and an IMBA graduate, spoke of his experience in venture capitalism. He awed students with his vivid descriptions of building frontier businesses that utilize prospective technologies, and he explained the mechanisms of venture capital operations.

Joe Galantry, a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch, provided an interactive session with students in which he awarded Nerf basketballs to students who responded correctly to questions he posed. Reaching past the financial side, this expert showed the importance of marketing advisory services, knowing the values of clientele and being able to communicate on a personal level with customers.

The first ever GFA Tutorial Session was hosted by Aaron Smith, a current second-year IMBA student and GFA executive vice president. Smith helped first-years understand how to use a financial calculator and work through finance problem sets. This session was held in tandem with Professor Kannan's MBA 501

finance class in order to help students become more comfortable with a tool they will use regularly during their time at the IMBA.

MBA Partners' Club Goes On Curtis Orchard Trip

by Peewara (Pam) Tarasak, President of IMBA Partners' Club

On October 29, the IMBA Partners' Club held a trip to Champaign's Curtis Orchard, an 80-acre farm with over 4,500 apple trees and 20 acres of pumpkins. The trip exposed all students to the Midwestern U.S. farmland experience, as students were able to pick apples and pumpkins just before Halloween. Both IMBA students and their families attended.

In addition to the Curtis Orchard trip, the Partners' Club held several activities this semester, including celebrations of newborn babies and student family gatherings. The Curtis Orchard trip was the first off-campus activity this year. In the future, the club plans to introduce more activities, such as a book club.

MBA Partners' Club, a club for IMBA students who have families living in Urbana-Champaign, has a mission to "Make You Feel at Home." Diverse club members from countries such as Korea, Japan and Brazil, as well as American students, participate in the club.

The Partners' Club would like to dedicate a special thank you to Jongseok (Jimmy) Kim and Chih-Hsu (Jasper) Lin for greatly supporting the club this year.



Graduate Finance Association members enjoy two separate guest financial speaker presentations.