

## STUDENT AFFAIRS

### MBA Student and Alumnus Place in Entrepreneur Competition

by Courtney Hainline, Assistant Director of Student Affairs

Professional MBA student Conrad Tucker ('09) and MBA alumnus Joe Bradley ('04) proudly represented the Illinois MBA by qualifying as finalists in the V. Dale Cozad New Venture Competition on the University of Illinois campus. This annual event is designed to encourage students, researchers and community members to create sustainable businesses in the Urbana-Champaign area. Tucker and Bradley, who are also pursuing their PhDs in Systems and Entrepreneurial Engineering, utilized their diverse educations to compete successfully among the field of 30 applicants.

Tucker's team placed first runner-up in the Commercial Venture Division with its Aerodynamic Particle Separator, an air filtration system that can be used residentially with HVAC systems or installed in homes or businesses as a pre-cleaner, removing heavy particles from the air. This requires less maintenance and cost than conventional filtration systems.

Tucker did his initial research through an Illinois Business Consulting project and a marketing project in one of his Professional MBA courses. With the help of a local attorney, professors and another engineering student, Tucker's company, CentriOpt, Inc., became a legal entity on March 9, 2009.

Tucker's team took the prize for the best elevator speech, along with their first runner-up placement in the presentation portion. His total prize earnings were \$5,000.

Joe Bradley's company, The Clean Home Company, was second runner-up in the Social Venture Division. Bradley's team developed the Sequence Timer with Animation, a child safety product. Bradley said his idea was prompted after reading a study conducted by a school in Michigan that implemented a hand-washing policy that resulted in a 25-30% reduction in student absenteeism.

The Clean Home Company aims to use their product to minimize the spread of germs by encouraging children to regularly wash their hands. Bradley's team won \$2,000, which they will use for prototypes. Since the competition, The Clean Home Company changed its name to Applied Instructions, Inc.



Professional MBA student Conrad Tucker (top) and alumnus Joe Bradley ('04) received monetary awards for finishing first runner-up and second runner-up, respectively, in their divisions of the V. Dale Cozad New Venture Competition.

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### IN THIS ISSUE

Student Affairs .....	1
News.....	2
Career Services .....	2
Admissions.....	2
Student Life.....	2-4
MBA Corner .....	3
Life Events.....	4

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 4:** Spring Gala, I-Hotel
- Apr 6:** Investigate Illinois
- Apr 7:** I.O.U.S.A. Documentary, Deloitte Auditorium
- Apr 11:** Illinois Marathon
- Apr 13:** Leighton Lecture on Ethics and Leadership, Deloitte Auditorium
- Apr 14:** Second Tuesdays, The Gage Restaurant, Chicago, Ill.
- Apr 16:** Conversations with Leaders: John Murray, Illini Center, Chicago, Ill.
- Apr 22:** College of Business Alumni Association Spring Luncheon, Hilton Towers, Chicago, Ill.

### CONTACT US

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### Conversations with Leaders:

An exclusive ILLINOIS MBA event with

John Murray, '01 MBA

Chief Bid Officer, Chicago 2016 Olympic Bid

**Date:** April 16, 2009  
**Location:** Illini Center, 200 S Wacker, Chicago, Ill.  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$25, hors d'oeuvres and open bar provided  
**RSVP:** [www.illinois.edu/goto/MBA\\_Chicago\\_2016](http://www.illinois.edu/goto/MBA_Chicago_2016)  
[www.chicago2016.org](http://www.chicago2016.org)



## NEWS

### Message from the Associate Dean

by Mary Miller, Associate Dean



The academic year is quickly coming to an end, and we all have spring fever after a long, cold winter. As students returned to campus from Spring Break, I was amazed by how far students can travel in one short week and how much fun they can have.

While students go back to class, we are busy planning graduation events. This year we have some new arrangements. Instead of our traditional tent party on the Quad behind David Kinley Hall, we will be hosting a graduation brunch in the Business Instructional Facility (BIF) on Saturday, May 16, after the MBA graduation ceremony.

This will give us an opportunity to showcase our new building and take advantage of the terrific atrium space. It will also encourage the Class of 2009 and their families to meet each other in an environment where we don't have to worry about the elements interfering with our plans. In years past, we survived tornado warnings, freezing temperatures and torrential rains with only a tent to protect us! This year we will be safe and warm as we observe the weather from inside BIF.

## STUDENT LIFE

### The Polar Plunge Turns in Significant Donations

by Kim French, President, MBA Service Association

On March 7, seven brave students lined up on the shores of Lake of the Woods in Mahomet, Ill., to run into the icy water and take the Polar Plunge. Fortunately, the day brought unseasonably warm weather, although still very cold water, and a fun experience. The nine-student MBA Service Association team raised an impressive \$1,751 for the Special Olympics, and had a great time doing it! Thank you to everyone who contributed.



First-year MBA students (L to R) Kim French, Scott Madison, John Karantonis, Maggie Breloff, Loren Friedman, Henry Palomino and Smitha Soman took the Polar Plunge and helped raise \$1,751 for the Special Olympics.

## ADMISSIONS

### Illinois MBA Recognized for Excellence

by Ben Moreland, Associate Director of Admissions

Reporting on a survey of MBA students conducted by The Princeton Review, *Entrepreneur* Magazine recognized the Illinois MBA in its "Student Opinion Honors for Business Schools" in the area of operations. The Princeton Review formulated the "Student Opinion Honors" lists based on students' assessments of how well their business school prepared them in six different areas related to a successful career in business including accounting, finance, general management, global management, marketing and operations.

To view the "Student Opinion Honors" online, go to: [www.princetonreview.com/studentOpinionHonors.aspx](http://www.princetonreview.com/studentOpinionHonors.aspx).

The Illinois MBA was also recognized by Northwestern University for its team's performance in the Corporate Restructuring Case Competition hosted by the Kellogg School of Management this past fall (see December 2008 issue of the *Sixth Street Journal*). The team of Loren Friedman, Nitin Verma, Travis Green and Jonathan Grubb impressed the judges and hosts in qualifying for the final round, earning the Illinois MBA an invitation to participate in the Fall 2009 competition.

## CAREER SERVICES

### Alumni Impact Students' Job Prospects

by Julie Sweet, Associate Director of Career Services

MBA Career Services thanks all of our alumni who have generously donated time and energy to assist our students in their job searches. As many of you know, the economy has impacted the hiring of our students, especially those looking for full-time positions. At the beginning of March, full-time employment was down 15% from where it was last year at that time.

The support from alumni has been outstanding, as many of you have assisted the program by performing mock interviews, accepting resume books for any potential positions at your company and/or offering informational interviews to many of the students. Each of these can make a large impact on the success of the students' job search.

Over the last few months, MBA Career Services has reached out to almost 200 companies, and about 20% of these have posted a position for our students, thanks mainly to alumni willing to promote our students or provide us with additional contacts. We celebrate the discovery of each employment opportunity and hope to grow our percentage of success during the last two months of school.

Please stay in touch and reach out to us if we can assist you or your company in any way. With a lot more outreach and a little luck, we hope to report more employment success at the end of the year.

*Save the Date: August 20th*  
*Fall 2009 CareerQuest, Chicago*  
*Alumni volunteers needed – details to follow*

You are cordially invited to join the MBA and College of Business Alumni Associations for their monthly networking event.



**When:** April 14, 2009  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** The Gage Restaurant  
24 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Ill.

## STUDENT LIFE

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### Diversity Association Readies Itself for the Illinois Marathon

by Jeff Hong, VP of Marketing, Diversity Association

The Illinois MBA Diversity Association (IMBADA) will be participating in the inaugural Illinois Marathon, which will be held on April 11, 2009. Showing wide interest in the event, some IMBADA members will be offering their services as volunteers while others will be participating in the marathon. To promote its mission of diversity in a variety of contexts, IMBADA is planning to use the Illinois Marathon as an opportunity to celebrate health and physical well-being for all.

Leading by example, IMBADA President Lauren Johnson will be running the half-marathon, while the VP of Marketing, Jeff Hong, will run the relay marathon with fellow IMBADA members. IMBADA members began training in February in preparation for the marathon. Rafael Diokno, a second-year student, stated, "Training and staying focused is the most difficult part. You have to eat right and make sacrifices."

On a more serious note, the Illinois Marathon is in jeopardy of being cancelled due to a shortage of volunteers. The Illinois Marathon needs to recruit at least 100 more volunteers before April 1 in order to move forward with the event. IMBADA is working hard to recruit as many volunteers as possible.

Registration to sign up to run or volunteer is still open. Visit [www.illinoismarathon.com](http://www.illinoismarathon.com) for more information. To sign up as a volunteer under the IMBADA organization, please contact one of the executive board members for more information.

#### Illinois MBA Alumni Professional Group



*Are you part of our Illinois MBA Professional Group through LinkedIn?  
Visit our registration link  
and sign up now.*

[www.linkedin.com/IllinoisMBA](http://www.linkedin.com/IllinoisMBA)

### Latin American Business Society Joins the Diversity Association

by Patrick Mackay, VP of Projects, Latin American Business Society

The Latin American Business Society (LABS) is happy to re-introduce itself to the Illinois MBA student body. Going forward LABS is excited about the opportunity to work with the other clubs that together form the new Illinois MBA Diversity Association (IMBADA).

As the school year comes to a close, LABS would like to introduce its new leadership: Camilo Arango, President; Sandra Ossa, VP of Technology Management; and Patrick MacKay and Henry Palomino, VPs of Projects. Together the officers have mapped out a bright future for the club. In the months ahead LABS hopes to invite several prominent Illinois faculty to deliver lectures concerning Latin-specific issues and introduce interested students to Latin America through country-specific presentations.

Additionally, the club hopes to partner with several university programs including the Center for International Business Education & Research (CIBER), the Center of Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS) and the recently announced Brazilian Institute to expand the club's reach outside the MBA program.

Long-term, the club is beginning the necessary work to create a robust Latin American IMBA network. Such a network will benefit both students and alumni. LABS believes the establishment of a Latin IMBA network will enhance the program's exposure within the region, thereby increasing the number of applications.

Finally, LABS encourages former members and alumni to contact the current officers to simply say hello or provide any ideas or recommendations by emailing Sandra Ossa at [ossatab1@illinois.edu](mailto:ossatab1@illinois.edu).

## MBAA CORNER

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### MBAA Plans End-of-Year Festivities

by Anne Hammond, VP of Programs, MBAA



Spring has returned to Urbana-Champaign and with it the anticipation of internships and new jobs. As another semester comes to a close, the MBA Association (MBAA) is planning a number of events to welcome the warmer weather. Students will be volunteering for the first Illinois Marathon with the Diversity Association, and annual events such as the Spring Gala and Finale are quickly approaching. These events will cap what has been a productive semester for all of the student organizations in the MBA.

This semester has been particularly successful in linking current students with alumni. The Annual Alumni Banquet in Chicago was a wonderful networking event and recognized one of our most notable alumni: Alan Feldman, CEO of Midas. In April, students will be heading up to Chicago once again to join alumni for a talk by the Chief Bid Officer for the 2016 Olympics, alumnus John Murray.

The MBAA board believes that bringing together students and alumni is of great importance, especially in such a challenging economy. As we begin to plan for the fall semester, MBAA and Club Officers are planning to build on this semester's success. In addition, we hope to continue to provide high-quality programs and to welcome the Class of 2011 into the IMBA family.

## STUDENT LIFE

### Sixth Annual Women in Business Leadership Conference a Success

by Colleen White, President, Women in Business Society

The Illinois MBA Women in Business Society (WiB) held its Sixth Annual Women in Business Leadership Conference on Friday, February 20, 2009. The conference, hosted each year by the Illinois MBA Women in Business Society, is intended to inspire and motivate students, faculty and working professionals to achieve excellence by becoming leaders and innovators in the business world. The theme of this year's conference was "Business in Action" and was held in the new Business Instructional Facility on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus. The conference was attended by a number of Illinois MBA students as well as women from the local Urbana-Champaign community.



Marilyn Nagel, the keynote speaker for the Sixth Annual Women in Business Leadership Conference, offered career advice to the aspiring business leaders in attendance by reflecting on her own career.

The conference keynote speaker was Marilyn Nagel, Director of Global Inclusion and Diversity at Cisco, who, drawing from her own personal experience as a career businesswoman, offered excellent career advice to the aspiring business leaders in the audience. Conference attendees also heard from a panel of successful businesswomen about the challenges they have experienced as female business professionals. The panel included

Darcy Davidsmeyer, Director of Government Affairs at Motorola; Lorie Kates, Regional Vice President – Midwest Region at Travelers Insurance; and Katherine Wright, President of Roundtable Media.



Panel members Darcy Davidsmeyer, Lorie Kates and Katherine Wright all shared the challenges they have faced as female business professionals.

The Women in Business Society was pleased with the overall success of this year's Women in Business Leadership Conference. Plans are already underway for next year's conference. If you are interested in learning more about the Women in Business Leadership Conference or would like to attend next year, please contact the Women in Business Society President Colleen White at [white26@illinois.edu](mailto:white26@illinois.edu).

## LIFE EVENTS

Jessica Vlna ('09) married Mark Deming (JD '09) on March 21, 2009, in Mt. Prospect, Ill.

Cindy Larson ('04) has been promoted to the Director of Business Development for Carl A. Nelson & Company, an international construction company based in Burlington, Iowa.



John Glade ('85) helped record a CD for his wife's, Debbie, book for children, "The Travel Adventures of

Lilly P. Badilly: Costa Rica." Sample book pages and music can be found at [www.lillybadilly.com](http://www.lillybadilly.com). John is Senior Vice President of Consumer Lending at BankUnited in Florida.

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