

Sixth Street Journal 2.0

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois MBA

STUDENT LIFE

Students Share a Night of Laughs and Memories at Finale

by Rahul Kalsi, Class of 2007

Second-year IMBAs shared a night of food, drinks and plenty of laughs at the Second-Year Finale on April 26, 2007. This annual event for the graduating class brings students, faculty and administration together for a casual, light-hearted event. This year, the students returned to the Illini Union with a program that included a Mexican buffet, a slide show and the highlight of the evening, an awards ceremony honoring some of our most “talented” and infamous second-year students.

With an Oscar-like atmosphere, students walked on stage to receive awards ranging from “Most Likely to Be CEO of a Fortune 500 Company” to “Most Likely to Answer Their Cell Phone during Graduation.”

“Finale definitely brought out the personalities of all of my second-year classmates for one last occasion,” said Donald Bart.

Nearly every graduating student attended Finale along with a great turnout from faculty and administration. Associate Dean Mary Miller surprised the second-year students when she handed out a sealed copy of the students’ original graduate school application essays. The IMBA also surprised the Class of 2007 with Illinois MBA logo USB flash drives.

After the dinner and awards ceremony concluded, the second-year class walked over to Joe’s Brewery on Fifth Street where the first-year students were waiting to join in the celebration at a private MBA-only party.

A special thank you goes out to Judy McDermott and Amy Wu for all of their help at the Finale event. Also, thank you to Dean Miller, the IMBA and the Illinois MBA Association for their generosity in helping sponsor this great event.



It was a night to remember for these second-year students. Finale allows soon-to-be graduates to reflect on and celebrate their Illinois MBA experience.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 12:** 2nd Tuesdays Event at Millennium Park, Alumni & Students Welcome
- July 20:** First Day of PEP
- Aug 13:** Last Day of PEP
- Aug 15:** First Day of PreTerm
- Aug 20:** Alumni Professional Development – “Keeping Your Brand in Demand”
- Aug 20:** Illinois MBA Sunset Cruise
- Aug 22:** First Day of Class

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ALUMNI

Alumni Invited to Professional Development Event

by Ben Lester, Class of 2006

We on the Alumni Board want to first congratulate the Class of 2007 for their recent graduation. Welcome to the alumni world! We know how hard you've worked to get to this point in your careers. Thank you for your service to our program.

To continue the work that you have all started, we would urge you to consider joining our Board. There is much work to be done still in 2007, and your enthusiasm and perspective are highly desired on our team.

One of the initiatives we encourage you to participate in is the planned "Keeping Your Brand in Demand" seminar featuring Catherine Kaputa, author of *U R a Brand!* This half-day event, scheduled for August 20 from 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., features lunch, seminar materials and an evening networking reception aboard the Kanan Cruise Ship – one of Chicago's exclusive lake-faring yachts. Registration for the event is \$199.

This is a tremendous opportunity for self-improvement, and we would encourage all alumni to make an effort to participate. Alumni may register at www.uiuc.edu/goto/mba_professional. The event promises to provide perspective on managing your own brand – or the brands for your companies. As much as anything, it is a great opportunity to re-connect with old classmates and friends.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in August! Congratulations again to the Class of 2007 – we are eager to work with you as you begin this next phase of your careers. Please keep in touch.



NEWS

Message from the Associate Dean

by Mary Miller, Associate Dean

Another academic year is over and another MBA class has graduated. The campus is quiet as the students have left for their summer internships or other activities and the graduates have relocated to start their professional careers. However, that does not mean that we have nothing to do.

Admissions is still evaluating applications and admitting students to fill the Class of 2009. In addition, there is a lot of communication with those who will soon be relocating to Urbana-Champaign from all over the United States and the world.

Student Affairs is reviewing student grades and planning PreTerm (orientation) for the Class of 2009. They are also making final arrangements for the special course for international students, PEP, which begins in July.

We still have current students and graduates who need summer internships and permanent positions, and Career Services is busy trying to help them secure their "dream" job/internship. If you're looking for a good employee, please let us know. We want 100% internship and permanent job placement.

The Illinois MBA professional group on Linked In continues to grow, and we've reconnected and found some alumni whom we haven't heard from in a long time. The professional development seminar, "Keeping Your Brand in Demand" is confirmed for August 20, 2007, in Chicago, and alumni will receive registration information about this soon. In addition, we are planning an Alumni Global Business Conference on October 26, 2007, in conjunction with Homecoming. So save the date and plan on returning to campus for this event. It will be a good way for you to learn from fellow alumni and faculty, reconnect with former classmates, and enjoy the excitement and fun of Homecoming.



STUDENT LIFE

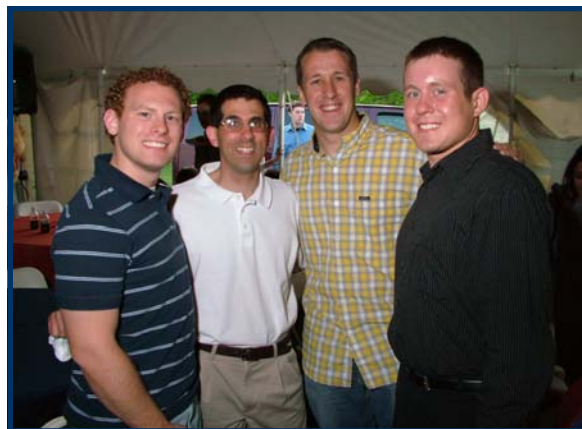
Graduates Bring Proud Families to Illinois MBA Tent Party

by Kristi Martin, Program Coordinator

On Friday, May 11, the Illinois MBA hosted their annual Graduation Tent Party honoring the Class of 2007. It's an Illinois MBA tradition to hold a tent party for the graduating students the evening before convocation. Over 250 IMBA students, faculty, staff, friends and their families enjoyed the event in the South Quad. The party gave the students a chance to introduce their proud families to their classmates with whom they have spent their last two years.

The students' family and friends enjoyed a barbeque buffet, which featured rib eye steak, teriyaki chicken and a chocolate cake from Round Barn Banquet Centre, while the deejay provided background music during the event.

The Class of 2007 was a very active, involved and dedicated class which made its mark on the Illinois MBA. Their presence will be truly missed by faculty, staff and students at the university. Congratulations to the Class of 2007 for all their accomplishments.



Jonathan Brown, Matthew Cuff and Andrew Maxedon join for a photo with their teacher and mentor, Prof. Nick Petruzzi (middle left), at Tent Party.

MBAA PERSPECTIVE

Alumni Events to Heat Up

by Mike Lewis, VP of Alumni Affairs

I am honored as the MBA Association's Vice President of Alumni Affairs to have the opportunity to work with our distinguished alumni and current Illinois MBA candidates. Alumni Affairs actively works to increase and enhance relationships between alumni, current MBA candidates and the IMBA program. Via our annual Spring CareerQuest in Chicago and Fall Alumni Awards Banquet in Urbana-Champaign, as well as new initiatives, such as LinkedIn: Illinois MBA Connected, we are improving communications within the global IMBA community. Our diverse and accomplished alumni span the world and virtually every industry and are one of the program's greatest strengths.



Our next major alumni event is the Second Annual Alumni Appreciation and Awards Weekend. This year's activities will take place in Urbana-Champaign on Homecoming Weekend, October 26 and 27, 2007.

The weekend will start Friday, October 26, with a professional conference focusing on developments in global business. Later that evening, we will honor a distinguished alumna/us of the program for his or her significant professional and social achievements. Attendees will have the opportunity to reconnect with former classmates, meet current students and enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing in the Illini Union Ballroom. On Saturday, we also hope you can join us for a Homecoming Tailgate and football game. The Illini take on Ball State this year – so come cheer on the team and share your day with some old and new friends!

Additional details on the weekend's events and nomination criteria for the Alumni Awards will be shared in the coming weeks via email and on the IMBA website (www.mba.uiuc.edu). We invite your suggestions on how alumni relations can be further improved and look forward to seeing you Homecoming Weekend!

ALUMNI PROFILE

Making Connections: Students Invite Alumni to Campus

by Ben Moreland, Assistant Director of Admissions

On April 16, at an event organized by the National Society for Hispanic MBAs, students Cesar Argueta, Anna-Lisa Peter, Martin Lauw and Pablo Barreda connected with Illinois MBA alumnus and president of the Chicago chapter of NSHMBA, Germán Manrique (Class of 2000). Through their meeting, the students ended up inviting Manrique and another alumnus of the Illinois MBA, Carlos Herrera (Class of 2001), to return to campus as special guests.



Carlos Herrera (left) and German Manrique (right) returned to campus to encourage current students as they plan their careers.

Manrique is a partner at URBANWorks, Ltd., an architecture firm in Chicago. He earned a Bachelor's in Architecture from the University of Illinois, later adding an MBA degree from Illinois to his credentials.

Herrera is the finance manager at International Truck and Engine Corporation. He earned a Bachelor's in Information Systems from the Instituto Tecnológico in Morelia Michoacan, Mexico, and worked as an information systems consultant before attending the Illinois MBA.

Looking back on his experience at Illinois, Herrera said, "I truly appreciate the opportunity to develop lifelong relationships with other students at Illinois. Not only did I meet talented people through the MBA program but also other students throughout campus who were at the forefront of technological research and development."

Manrique also emphasized the relationships he formed while at Illinois: "A group of us rented vans to go to a NSHMBA conference in Denver, Colorado. During the trip, we forged long-lasting friendships while discussing our future goals and plans. It's experiences like those that make your MBA experience memorable."

As part of their visit to campus, Herrera and Manrique were provided with a tour of the under-construction business instructional facility. Manrique stated, "As an architect, I am particularly excited to see this building take shape. This facility is going to take the MBA program to the next level."

The Illinois MBA community would like to thank Manrique and Herrera for visiting campus and sharing their experiences with current students. Their continued interest in the program and its students is truly appreciated.



ILLINOIS MBA ALUMNI SAVE THE DATES

August 20, 2007: Professional Development & Sunset Cruise
Register @ www.uiuc.edu/goto/mba_professional

October 26-27, 2007: The IMBA Second Annual Alumni
Appreciation and Homecoming Weekend

STUDENT LIFE

IMBA Team Competes in Big Ten Case Competition

by Chris Mulliken, Class of 2008

First-year IMBA students Michelle Bernardi, Maura Gill, Michael Lewis and Chris Mulliken represented the Illinois MBA at this year's Big Ten Case Competition, held at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. This year's competition included an analysis of a market leader in the home lawn and garden industry, The Scotts Company.

Teams from ten universities developed and presented their strategies to a panel of judges, including professors, industry experts and representatives of The Scotts Company. Under the guidance of its team advisor, Professor Kathryn Rybka, the IMBA team performed very well, despite losing to Michigan State University in the first round.

All of the teams were given 24 hours to analyze a case study on The Scotts Company and present their strategic recommendations for improving bottom-line performance. The ten teams were split into three divisions for the first round, and the winners of each division advanced to the final round.

Overall, it was a great experience for the IMBA team. "We had an all-around great team. The camaraderie and team dynamics were phenomenal. I look forward to competing in other case competitions next year," said Mulliken.

The strategy selected for The Scotts Company was very similar to what the company actually did, which helped Scotts increase profits by two to three fold in the last few years. Gill indicated that "the loss to Michigan State was tough; it really came down to the judges' personal preferences."

All the team members would like to sincerely thank Professor Rybka and IMBA students Cody Boyd, Kapil Rajurkar, Zivar Hallaji and Matthew Cuff for their support and guidance.



Chris Mulliken, Michelle Bernardi, Maura Gill and Michael Lewis proudly represented the Illinois MBA at Big Ten Case Competition.

Are you LinkedIn with Illinois MBA?

We have been inviting alumni to join our LinkedIn professional group. If you haven't linked into us or did not receive our email invite, link in today.

Link to join: Illinois MBA group:
<http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/2376/79325B5E50BE>

We currently have 330 members and want to continue to grow and reconnect with our alumni. If you know of missing alumni and would like us to reach out to them, please email Tracy Loschen at tloschen@uiuc.edu.

FACULTY PROFILE

Faculty Profile: Anju Seth

by Rita Lei, Class of 2007

Before Professor Anju Seth arrived in the United States to pursue her doctoral degree in business administration, she had been a successful consultant in strategy management for five years. High-level corporate strategy fascinated her, and her original plan was to go back to be a strategy consultant again upon graduation. When asked how she started to get involved in management consultancy, her answer was simple: "I am a curious person and I get bored easily. Consultancy was a natural fit."

But Dr. Seth found that research (like that done during her PhD) suited her curious nature, and she decided to stay in academia. Now, she teaches doctoral, Executive MBA and MBA students at the University of Illinois, while enjoying theoretical research and finding practical solutions. Dr. Seth has a bachelor degree in psychology.

Dr. Seth's current research interests include corporate strategy, global strategy, acquisitions and alliances. "The best part of being a professor is constant opportunities to learn and always being in contact with young people," she said.

To fulfill her curiosity outside of the business school, Dr. Seth is a member of the UIUC Philosophy Club. Many professors join this club to enjoy cross-disciplinary readings, and to gather and exchange intellectual dialogues. "Being able to view things from so many different perspectives is a fantastic learning process. As a curious person, the club meetings refresh my thoughts."

Gardening and music are also her favorite pastimes. Spring is the busy season to work in her garden. And Dr. Seth has a season ticket to UIUC's Krannert Center for the Performing Arts so she can enjoy jazz concerts all year round.



In addition to her research and teaching, Anju Seth engages in philosophical discussion and enjoys jazz concerts.

STUDENT LIFE

IMBAs Celebrate End of Year with Many Festivities

by Judy McDermott, VP of Social Programs

The last weeks of school for the Illinois MBA's spring semester were certainly jam-packed with more than just final exams and papers. IMBA clubs and the Illinois MBA Association (MBAA) put on several events, including a mini-golf outing, a Cinco de Mayo party, a Salsa night and a bar crawl.

The IMBA Golf Association, with club officers Matt Arient and Rob White, held a mini-golf tournament on May 3 at the Old Orchard Links in Savoy. The competition was friendly and fun, ending with Rob White winning the 36-hole tourney.

Soon after on May 5, the Latin American Business Society's (LABS) President Cesar Argueta held a Cinco de Mayo party at his house in Urbana. It was a beautiful sunny day in which many IMBA students gathered to celebrate the holiday. Authentic Mexican food was served, while Latin music played all afternoon long. The party continued into the evening with many students later going to a tent party at Chevy's restaurant.



First-year student Kristin Winkler sports a sombrero at the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Students took a small breather to finish up finals, but on May 9, it was back to celebrating – this time at the Soma Ultralounge in Downtown Champaign. The MBAA rented out the second floor of the bar so that students could enjoy Salsa music with a view of the packed lower dance floor. MBA students danced to Latin (as well as Caribbean) music all night long!

The next day, May 10, the festivities continued with an MBA Bar Crawl. Students gathered wearing T-shirts with what looked like the National Basketball Association (NBA) logo, but were really silhouettes of a businessman or businesswoman. The bar crawl included trips to Green Street bars such as Bar Louie, Firehaus, Legend's, Murphy's and FuBar.

Overall, the spring 2007 close-out activities were a great way to celebrate the end of the school year with classmates.



First-year students Alex Spektor, Min Ju Lee and Mirela Muresan unwind from a long semester of studies.

SUMMER BREAK

Summer Plans Galore for Illinois MBA Students

by Judy McDermott, VP of Social Programs

First-year, soon to be second-year, Illinois MBAs finished up their final exams and the semester in mid-May in anticipation of their eventful summers ahead. Whether traveling abroad, working in internships located across the United States or staying in or around Champaign, the IMBA Class of 2008 is certainly keeping busy in the coming months.

Scott Greuel will be staying in Champaign and completing an internship with a local real estate development firm. He will also be teaching AutoCAD to eighth through 12th graders at Parkland College's "College for Kids."

Meanwhile, Maura Gill will be working for Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati as a Category Team Business Account Manager providing human resources solutions for a marketing strategy team.

Rob White will be working for State Farm in Bloomington, Ill., in its marketing department. He will be focusing on property and casualty insurance.

Brett Klinker is moving to California for the summer. He will be working in San José, Calif., for Cisco Systems. Brett also plans to visit Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

A large crop of IMBAs will also be working in the Greater Chicago area this summer. Bhavik Rathod, after a trip home to Mumbai, India, to visit family, will be working at Motorola in Libertyville, Ill., in the Mobile Devices department doing project management. And J.P. Rudolph will be working in the Libertyville office as well, but in marketing. (Rudolph, the IMBA's resident singer, will also be working on recording and producing his first CD!) Sumeet Mittal will also be working at Motorola, but in the Arlington Heights, Ill., office. He will be in the Integrated Supply Chain division.

Meanwhile, in Downtown Chicago, Chris Malabver will be working for Scotia Capital. He will also participate for a week in the Canadian Leadership Orientation program at the University of Ottawa. Judy McDermott will be working for Bank of America in the Sears Tower, in the Global Markets Technology division focusing on associate and upper level staff development programs. And Mike Lewis will be working at Mercer HR Consulting. He will be involved in projects focusing on executive, broad-based, and sales and effectiveness compensation design.

In addition, several IMBAs, such as Chris, Sumeet and Pablo Barreda, will be taking the CFA Level-1 exam on June 2. Altogether, this is a busy summer indeed!

ADMISSIONS

The Team Effort of IMBA Admissions

by Ben Moreland, Assistant Director of Admissions

In the admissions office, we realize that our students and alumni are integral to our efforts in drawing great new students to the Illinois MBA. Students' and alumni's first-hand account of their MBA experience at Illinois often brings assurance to prospective students that they will receive a great education and engage intelligent, talented and diverse professionals here.

On Friday, April 27, we held a thank you lunch for all our students who met with prospective students over the past year, but this one event is not sufficient in expressing our gratitude. For those who were unable to join us for this event, we want to let you know that we appreciate your efforts immensely. Both students and alumni have been responsive this year in contacting our applicants to answer their questions about our program, and those efforts have proven fruitful.

We know you will be pleased to meet this next class of students, the Class of 2009, and for them to join the Illinois MBA community. You have played a large role in bringing these talented, young professionals to Illinois, and we hope you will be eager to meet them by attending the Sunset Cruise on Lake Michigan on Monday, August 20, 2007.

If you have not been asked to serve as an alumni contact for prospective students but are interested in helping us in our recruiting efforts, email Director of Admissions Jackie Wilson at jjwilson@uiuc.edu. We will be more than glad to include you as an alumni contact for our next admissions cycle in 2007–2008.

LIFE EVENTS

Share Your Life Events with Illinois MBA

We've decided to add a new column, *Life Events*, to the Journal. We want to share your successes and special life events with our alumni community. Did you change jobs, receive a promotion, get married and/or have a child? If so, send us a brief note by emailing Ben Moreland at bmorelan@uiuc.edu (digital photos are encouraged), and we'll add it to the *Life Events* column.

Here's the first life event from Illinois MBA Alumni:

- '04 IMBA Julia (Machuca) Heckler and '04 IMBA Tim Heckler had a little baby boy, Brock Selby Heckler, on February 17. Julia and Tim got engaged at the 2004 Finale. Julia says, "He (Brock) is an absolute joy in our life." Pictured to the right is Brock.



NEW COLUMN: LIFE EVENTS

SUBMIT YOUR LIFE
EVENT TO THE *SIXTH
STREET JOURNAL 2.0*

CAREER SERVICES

Opportunities for Expanding Professional Network

by Julie Sweet, Associate Director of Career Services

The Class of 2007 will be leaving us and stepping into their new employment positions very soon. Huron Consulting, AT&T, Intel and General Electric are just a few of the companies who have hired our students for full-time positions. We look forward to keeping in touch with our graduates and are excited to see this new Illinois MBA alumni group expand into the professional world.

The Class of 2009 will be arriving in just a few months, and we invite you to meet them during our annual Fall CareerQuest that will take place in Chicago on Monday,

August 20. We welcome volunteers on that day who would be willing to spend a few hours networking with our new students and assisting with our career management workshops. This could be a great way to give back to the Illinois MBA and promote your company. Please email us at MBACareerServices@uiuc.edu for more information.

This summer, please 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 MBACareerServices@uiuc.edu or call 217-244-8019. You can also create an Employer Account in EASE (www.easemba.com/mbaiuc/) and post an employment position.

The *Sixth Street Journal 2.0* is going on summer vacation. Our next issue will be September 2007. We would like to give a special thank you to Rahul Kalsi and Rita Lei for their exceptional work during the past two years on the *Sixth Street Journal 2.0*. Congratulations on graduating; the Journal will miss you.