

NEWS

Students Await Completion of the Business Instructional Facility

by Sarah Calhoun, Class of 2009

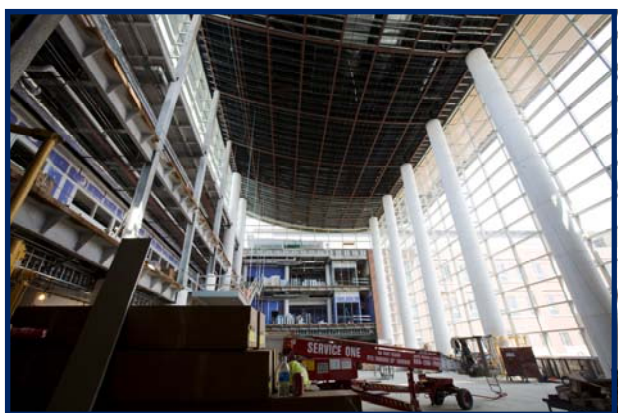
As the 2008 school year comes to a close, progress on the construction of the College of Business's new facility nears completion. The Business Instructional Facility's grand opening ceremony will be held on October 17 at 1:30 p.m. and will be followed by a reception. However, the building will be ready to hold class when students return to class on August 25, 2008.



A comparison of the architect's rendering and construction photo of the Business Instructional Facility, scheduled to open for class on August 25, show the building's progress.

The new facility, located at 515 East Gregory Drive, will be the first "green" building on the UIUC campus and is being built to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification standards. As the university's pioneer sustainable building, the facility is designed by University of Illinois alumnus and acclaimed architect Cesar Pelli to be environmentally friendly, reduce operating costs and provide a social setting that is both aesthetically pleasing and comfortable for business students, faculty and alumni.

Students and staff alike are anxious for the move into this impressive 160,000+ square foot masterpiece. On April 25, Mary Kay Dailey, Assistant Director of Marketing and



Communications for the College of Business, was given a sneak peek into the new building. She was able to take a few photos of the progress, proof that this new facility will certainly live up to its grand expectations. For further information about the building and the architect and to view a 24-hour live feed of the construction, please visit www.business.uiuc.edu/instructional_facility/index.htm.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 7 - Aug 24:** First-years' Summer Internships
- June 10:** Second Tuesday's Networking Event
- June 15:** Father's Day
- June 21:** Incoming Student Lunch in Chicago
- June 28:** Part-time Evening MBA Information Session
- July 4:** Independence Day (offices closed)
- July 18 - Aug 18:** Preparatory English Program
- Aug 18 - 24:** PreTerm Orientation
- Aug 25:** Classes Begin

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Business Instructional Facility
Grand Opening October 17, 2008

NEWS

Message from the Associate Dean

by Mary Miller, Associate Dean

The Class of 2008 has graduated, the members of the Class of 2009 are beginning their summer internships and the Class of 2010 is getting anxious about beginning their Illinois MBA. The campus is quiet, and the fourth floor of David Kinley Hall (DKH) is a mess.

Although we all celebrated on May 9 (Tent Party for MBA graduates), May 10 (MBA graduation ceremony) and May 11 (University commencement), I will miss the Class of 2008 – both the full-time and our first class of part-time graduates. They were a good class, and it was hard to say good bye to them. I know they will do well, and I hope they will stay connected to each other and to the program.

This is going to be a busy and disruptive summer as we get ready to move to the new Business Instructional Facility (BIF). Packing boxes have started to arrive and so have the construction crews. The student club room is being converted to a computer lab for economics, and faculty from the economics department will start moving into some office space on the fourth floor of DKH soon. It is not going to be easy to work with all the noise and dirt, but the ultimate outcome makes it worth the effort.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new building has been scheduled for Friday afternoon, October 17. Detailed information will be available in the fall, but I hope you will join us for this momentous occasion.

I hope you enjoy your summer. The *Sixth Street Journal* is not published during the summer, but look for it again on September 1.



STUDENT AFFAIRS

Graduates Honored at Convocation Ceremony

by Courtney Hainline, Assistant Director of Student Affairs

On Saturday, May 10, MBA faculty and staff joined the graduates' family and friends to celebrate the achievements of Illinois MBA graduates. The Convocation ceremony, held in Foellinger Great Hall in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, honored graduates from the following MBA programs: full-time MBA (110 graduates), Part-time MBA (34 graduates), Executive MBA in Chicago (60 graduates) and Executive MBA in Warsaw, Poland (44 graduates).

Some of the highlights of Convocation included full-time MBA graduates Cesar Argueta singing the national anthem and Judy McDermott providing reflections on her class's experiences and transformation. MBA alumna Alice A. Martin, Vice Chairman and Chief People Officer of NIBCO, Inc., was the guest speaker, and she challenged the students to continue their ways of success.

Dean Larry DeBrock recognized Chaz Hinkle and Alex Spektor with the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, which is awarded to the student(s) with the highest GPA in the graduating class. In addition, 27 students were honored with Academic Excellence (cumulative grade point average of 3.85/4.0), and 55 students were honored by Beta Gamma Sigma, a national business honor society reserved for the top 20% of the graduating class.

Congratulations Illinois MBA Class of 2008!



MBA Class of 2008 graduates Vivek Verma and Michelle Bernardi pose, after the ceremony, with Mary Sproat.

FACULTY PROFILE

Faculty Profile: Professor Joseph Cheng

by RJ Diokno, Class of 2009

Professor Joseph Cheng joined the University of Illinois in 1996 and currently teaches Global Strategy and Multinational Management to MBA and PhD students.



Professor Cheng received his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1974 and a PhD in Business Administration from the University of Michigan in 1977. Although he has performed consulting work for various companies, the majority of his work experience falls under his true passion, academia and research. Professor Cheng chose the Illinois because of what the school had to offer. "The University of Illinois is a research powerhouse that offers the advantage of having the best graduate students," Professor Cheng said.

Outside the classroom, Professor Cheng spends time with his family. His two sons are UIUC alumni, and his wife is a certified public accountant. Professor Cheng also enjoys traveling; his work has taken him around the world. Sydney, Vienna and Hong Kong are among his favorites. He will be spending the next school year working on the AJCKS project (acronym for Australia, Japan, China, Korea, and Singapore). The purpose of this project is to advance the understanding of the dynamics affecting global competitiveness of nations and firms from Asia-Pacific, with a focus on the AJCKS countries.

Professor Cheng's advice to MBA students, "Be double-smart," encourages students to learn not only from the classroom and textbooks, but also to learn from the world around them. This approach will allow students to become critical thinkers, and ultimately, better decision makers. Cheng also advises students to take advantage of the resources available to them at UIUC, especially the professors, as they have their own personal and work experiences from which students can learn.

CAREER SERVICES

Keeping Alumni Connected

by Julie Sweet, Associate Director of Career Services

On May 10, 2008, the Class of 2008 crossed the stage at graduation and will soon join the alumni ranks in the corporate world. We hope the graduates will stay in touch with one another, as well as reach out to other alumni as they move to cities all over the world. One way for everyone to stay connected is by keeping an updated profile in MBA Symplicity, the Illinois MBA alumni database.

This spring we announced that the Illinois MBA alumni database was converted from EASE to MBA Symplicity in order to provide alumni with a more user-friendly and integrated system. MBA Symplicity fosters communication between alumni, program administration and current students.

For those who had an alumni profile in EASE, their data was automatically uploaded to MBA Symplicity. Anyone who had an EASE profile can access their profile by logging into Symplicity via <https://mba-uiuc-csm.symplicity.com/employers>. Alumni should use their primary e-mail address as their username, and the password is the same as the one used for EASE. For those who have forgotten their password, they can use the “forgot password” button on the Symplicity login page. Those alumni who were never registered with EASE are invited to access the new system by clicking on the register button on the main login page.

We encourage all alumni to take a few minutes to log in to MBA Symplicity to review and update the “Personal Profile” and “Alumni Information” tabs of their accounts (located under “my profile” on the main page). For assistance or to provide feedback regarding MBA Symplicity, please contact Amanda Bichsel at abichsel@illinois.edu or 217-265-5408.

In addition to catching up with fellow alumni, we invite alumni to meet the incoming Class of 2010. There will be two opportunities to do so. For our alumni in the Urbana-Champaign area, there is a career management advisory activity on Wednesday, August 20, from 3-4 p.m. Then, the annual CareerQuest event will take place on Thursday, August 21, at the Illini Center in Chicago. We welcome volunteers who are willing to spend a few hours networking with our new students to both of these events. To register for either event, alumni should contact Julie at jasweet@illinois.edu, and specify the date they would be able to attend.

ADMISSIONS

College of Business Event Highlights “Women in the Boardroom”

by Kristi Martin, Assistant Director of Admissions

On May 21, the College of Business hosted a roundtable event at the Illini Center in Chicago entitled “Women in the Boardroom.” The event was geared toward alumnae who wanted to learn more about the successes and struggles of women rising to a corporate board position. College of Business alumnae, current students and friends of the program attended the event. Colleen White and Lian Zhang, members of the incoming MBA Class of 2010, also attended the event, which consisted of a networking opportunity, a lunch and a panel discussion.

Randi Blume, Vice President of Commercial Banking for Charter One Bank and College of Business alumna, moderated the panel discussion. Participating in the panel were three female executives – and alumnae of the University of Illinois – who all serve on corporate and/or not-for-profit boards. Among them, Doris Christopher, the CEO and founder of The Pampered Chef, has served on many boards including America’s Second Harvest and The Better Business Bureau of Chicago; Ann Cresce is the Senior VP and General Counsel of the Chicago Climate Exchange; and Jean Regan, President of TranzAct Technologies, Inc., serves on the Board of Directors for Sentry Insurance.

The speakers gave helpful advice to the audience and answered all their questions. They stressed a few keys to becoming a board member, primary of which were to get experience, become an expert or very knowledgeable in a specific area, tailor your résumé and network to get the position. The speakers also discussed how serving on a board has changed due to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the importance of making sure you are ready for the time commitment that successfully serving on a board requires.

All the speakers have had a positive experience serving on boards and gave encouraging words to the audience because they are seeing increased opportunities for women and minorities to serve in this capacity.



Panelists (L to R) Ann Cresce, Doris Christopher, Jean Regan and Randi Blume, participated in the “Women in the Boardroom” roundtable encouraging women to follow their path.

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

June 10, 2008
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Park Grill: Millennium Park
11 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL

STUDENT LIFE

Illinois Business Consulting Prepares for a New Year

by Sunil Rajan, Class of 2009

It is that time of the year again when students graduate, and we bid farewell to our second-year MBAs. With that comes a change in student leadership for Illinois Business Consulting (IBC). The current team, which has proved to be an exceptional faculty, will hand over responsibilities and challenges to the 2008-2009 team.

IMBA student Sunil V. Rajan takes over the reins as IBC's student director, with IMBAs Ross Clover and Nathan Brown serving as the operations and marketing managers, respectively. It will be tough to follow the impressive work done by last year's team that included Christopher Muliken (student director), Chaz Hinkle (operations manager) and Maura Gill (marketing manager). This year's team will be supported by Stephanie Jones (training manager) and 12 new senior managers, including two undergraduate students.

Last year's team has undoubtedly had great success and is leaving behind a great legacy. With the implementation of a full-fledged training program, project management certification training and a state-of-the-art website and portal for its consultants, they have brought a whole new dimension to the student experience at IBC.

The new leadership team realizes that they need to carry forward the work started by their predecessors while also making their own mark in the organization. With the primary focus still being on student experience, the new team will focus on ways to ensure that IBC remains a premier brand on campus, with highly talented consultants and a distinguishing portfolio of clients.

**ILLINOIS
BUSINESS
CONSULTING**

Class of 2008 Celebrates at Annual Tent Party

by Amanda Bichsel, Program Coordinator

On the evening of May 9, 2008, the full- and part-time Classes of 2008 gathered with family, friends, faculty and staff to celebrate their accomplishment at the Annual Tent Party hosted by the Illinois MBA administration. Over 200 guests gathered on the South Quad despite unseasonably cool weather. The Class of 2008 had the opportunity to introduce their families to classmates, faculty and staff with whom they have spent the last two years as well as to enjoy one last night together before graduation.

The attendees enjoyed a catered barbecue buffet featuring rib eye steak, teriyaki chicken and a variety of salads and sides from Round Barn Banquet Center. Background music, provided by a deejay, filled the tent, which was decorated in orange and blue.

This year's celebration marked the first graduating PTMBA class and the 48th class of full-time students. The students of the Illinois MBA Class of 2008 will be missed by all and are wished much success in their futures.



David Payne, pictured here with his daughter, celebrated the completion of his MBA at the Tent Party.



Class of 2008 graduates Mark Lewis (second from left), Mike Lewis (middle), Ed Austin and Michelle Bernardi (right) enjoyed visiting with friends and family at the IMBA Annual Tent Party held on Friday, May 9.

Illinois MBA Alumni Professional Group



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

<http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/2376/79325B5E50BE>

STUDENT LIFE

Admissions Staff Thanks Students for Their Assistance

by Shoubhik Gupta, Class of 2009

On the morning of May 6, the admissions team of the Illinois MBA organized a reception to honor the MBA students who assisted in the recruitment of the incoming Class of 2010. It was an informal event and there were many students in attendance. The admissions team put a lot of effort into organizing the event and even placed big "Thank You" posters on the walls of 404 David Kinley Hall.

The staff provided an assortment of snacks, including a delicious homemade salsa by Kristi Martin, assistant director of admissions. Jackie Wilson, director of admissions, was seen meticulously serving fruit punch, the contents of which remained a closely guarded secret! In the words of Kristi Martin, "It was great to get together with all of our student recruiters; we really appreciate all their help. They have been an essential part in bringing in the new class." The event was indeed enjoyed by all the student recruiters, and they even picked up an appreciation gift at the end of the reception.



Sophie Adriani, Emily Thompson, Mirela Muresan and Tiffany Tsai enjoyed snacks and punch at the Appreciation Reception.



IMBAs Chris Malabver, Sumeet Mittal and Pablo Barreda assisted admissions by taking prospective students to class and lunch during their campus visits.

CLUB ROUNDUP

GFA Holds UpDown Spring Student Stock Competition

by Troy Steele, Class of 2009

Congratulations to the winners of the Graduate Finance Association (GFA) UpDown Spring Stock Competition. Second-year Melvin Langhart took top honors with a very strong return of 36% for the period. Second place went to second-year Chris Malabver with a return of 16.5%, and third place was awarded to first-year Jareer Oweimrin who returned 14%.

Anticipating economic weakness in the U.S. economy, Langhart took positions in commodity and energy stocks but balanced his portfolio by including Research in Motion (maker of the Blackberry) and Goldman Sachs. His other selections were Chesapeake Energy (a natural gas play), Flowserve Corp. (maker of valves and controls for oil drilling companies), and Potash Corp. (a producer of fertilizers and animal feed). In the frothy market of the last months, Langhart achieved a portfolio that outperformed the market on both up and down days.

Malabver focused on value and also focused on the energy stocks. His picks capitalized on investor uncertainty in a turbulent market. Malabver's best performers were ExxonMobil, Petroleo Brasileiro (a Brazilian energy explorer and producer) and Visa Inc., a recent IPO that Malabver identified as having very strong fundamentals.

Oweimrin invested strictly in financial stocks and took heavy positions in Lehman Brothers, Visa, Citibank and a short position in Bear Stearns when the firm was selling at \$13 per share.

Thank you to all who participated in the competition. GFA looks forward to hosting the event again in the fall, so get your picks ready.

MBAA CORNER

IMBA Represented at the Annual Graduate Business Conference

by Adam Cook, President, MBAA

Last month, first-year MBA Jasen Schrock and I represented the Illinois MBA at the annual Graduate Business Conference at the University of California, Berkeley. More than 50 of the world's top business schools were represented. Over the course of two-and-a-half days, officers from each of these schools met to discuss best practices, listen to lectures from top business executives and insightful business theorists, and make connections.



The majority of my time was spent in Presidents' Council meetings. These meetings were slightly different than others that took place at the conference. Aside from being closed to everyone but presidents, there were no predetermined topics or agendas. We brought forward our strengths in hopes of helping others and our weaknesses in hopes of making them strengths. After hearing testimonies from many other MBA Association presidents I am happy to report that, organizationally, we function very well in spite of our challenges.

The Graduate Business Conference is a wonderful opportunity for the officers of MBA Associations to come away with many great ideas that they can translate into their own organizations. I feel that Jasen and I have definitely done that, as we have already started planning the implementation of some of these ideas. If I see just one or two of them come to fruition in our organization I will be extremely pleased.

CLUB ROUNDUP

ABS Hosts Academic Conference

by Sang-Jun Ko, President, ABS

On April 21, the Asian Business Society (ABS) held its academic conference on the fourth floor of DKH. Almost 30 first- and second-year MBA students attended this educational event. Professor Glenn Hoetker, Associate Professor for the Business and Law schools, and for the Institute of Genomic Biology, was the guest lecturer. Professor Hoetker spoke specifically about the technological aspects of the Asian region.

The speech was followed by an extensive period of question and answer where the attendees asked questions about the dynamics of the Asian market. Additionally, students from various countries such as Korea, Taiwan, India and Japan had the chance to discuss interesting issues about the Asian economy with the professor.

This event was a great experience and provided the students with valuable information on the state of the Asian economy. ABS hopes to host more events next year to help the students gain knowledge on this region of the world.

WiB Says Farewell

by Erin Mitchell, President, Women in Business Society

The end of April and beginning of May sees many end-of-the-year, farewell events. The Illinois Women in Business Society (WiB) was no exception. WiB held its Farewell Coffee Club on April 23, during the last full week of classes, in the MBA Association Club Room.

There were about 50 first- and second-year students in attendance, along with a few faculty and staff. It was a bittersweet event, but second-year students displayed excitement for starting a new phase in their lives. The first-years, although apprehensive about losing close friends, leaders and mentors, were also excited about being one step closer to their own graduation date.

WiB would like to thank all of the second-years for their hard work and dedication. We will miss you but know you will go far. WiB looks forward to yet another exciting school year in 2008-2009 as a new class of MBA students joins the IMBA community.



The Women in Business society held their Farewell Coffee Club on April 23.

Illinois MBA Students Establish Veterans Association

by Courtney Hainline, Assistant Director of Student Affairs

Illinois MBA students who are also veterans have joined together to create the "Illinois MBA Veterans Association." MBA students and alumni who are active duty or honorably discharged military veterans are able to participate in the group. The group's stated objectives are:

- to build and establish relationships with Illinois MBA military alumni, fellow MBA veterans clubs and military-friendly corporations.
- to support MBA Admissions with veteran recruiting.
- to assist its members as well as applicants to the MBA program in their transition from the military to the private sector.

If you are a veteran alumnus or are affiliated with a military-friendly corporation, we hope you will consider becoming involved with this new organization. Please contact Mike Petersen at mpeter27@illinois.edu to get involved.

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