

NEWS

MBA Career Services EASEs the Alumni Database

By Julie Sweet, Assistant Director of Career Services

MBA Career Services is very excited to introduce a new system for the Illinois MBA Alumni Database called EASE. All alumni registered in the old database will be receiving an email from us when the new system is launched. We think you will find it more informative and easier to use—whether you are updating your contact information or searching for fellow alumni.

All information from the existing Illinois MBA Alumni Database was transferred to EASE. However, many profile fields are new, and we ask that all alumni review and update your information. Please do not sign up as a new user! Your username is the same as in the old database and your password is your username. (You may change your password after logging in.) If you do not remember your username, please email MBACareerServices@uiuc.edu to request it.

Please keep in mind that we may need to make changes as we add new features. If we make changes to the profile section, you may need to review and update your profile the first few times you log in to EASE.

We welcome your feedback and questions, so feel free to email us at MBACareerServices@uiuc.edu or call (217)244-8019. We appreciate your participation in the database. We hope it will allow you to stay informed and involved in the Illinois MBA as well as keep you in touch with your IMBA classmates. Visit us soon at www.easemba.com/mbauuiuc to log in to the new database.



Matthew Cuff, Zivar Hallaji, Cody Boyd, faculty advisor Kathryn Rybka, and Kapil Rajurkar display the team's second place trophy with pride.

Illinois MBA Team Places Second in Big Ten Case Competition

By Kapil Rajurkar, Class of 2007

The Illinois MBA team turned in a great performance at the Big Ten Case Competition. Their second-place result proved to be one of the best, if not the best, finishes for an Illinois MBA team in the history of the competition. Cody Boyd, Zivar Hallaji, Matthew Cuff, and Kapil Rajurkar, all first-year MBAs, analyzed and presented their case at the Fisher School of Business at Ohio State University on April 15.

The competitors had 24 hours to analyze a case before they presented their business model to judges from various corporations. After qualifying for and competing in the finals with Ohio State University and the University of Minnesota, the Illinois team secured second place, with Cody Boyd earning the top individual honor as the Best Presenter. Ohio State University and the University of Minnesota placed first and third respectively.

The team members are particularly grateful to Kathryn Rybka, their faculty advisor, for her support. Sharon Yoon, Assistant Director of Student Services, and second-year students Serkan Serner, Dion Soetadi, Ben Lester, and Brian Precious provided their invaluable guidance and support.

MAY 2006

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 12: Last day of class

May 12: Illinois MBA Tent Party

May 13: 2006 MBA Convocation

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The 2006 Graduate Business Conference

By Chris Mulh, MBAA President

On April 4, Savva Amusin, MBAA Executive Vice President, and I traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, for the 2006 Graduate Business Conference (GBC).

The GBC presents student leaders from around the world with the opportunity to learn from, interact with, and build lasting relationships with one another. Our experience included completing case analyses on large Danish companies with the opportunity to learn from and interview CEOs and senior executives. We were also entertained by presentations from the likes of Jan Leschly, former CEO of GlaxoSmithKline, and Gary Nielson, Senior Vice President of Booz Allen Hamilton. The pinnacle event was a black-tie dinner with the Crown Prince of Denmark, held in the prestigious Copenhagen Town Hall.

Consistent with our 2006 MBAA goals, Savva and I learned the importance other prominent MBA programs place on establishing and fostering their alumni networks. We also learned ways to better incorporate the ideas and goals of all IMBA students into MBAA and club activities. Specifically, we worked on ideas for corporate fundraising, improving motivation and activity participation, and overcoming obstacles to success.

As a result of the conference, I am currently working with three Big Ten universities (Indiana, Michigan State, and Purdue) to set up a Big Ten Best Practices Workshop, which will be held twice per year in Chicago. It is my hope that we will be hosting the semi-annual event at the Illini Center and will further establish our reputation as an active institution in the advancement of MBA education.



Illinois MBA alumni, along with Associate Dean Mary Miller and Dean Avijit Ghosh, at an alumni reception in Seoul.

Message from the Associate Dean

By Mary Miller, Associate Dean

It has been a busy month, and I'm writing this under the influence of jetlag as I just returned from Asia.

The month began with a campus visit from the Turkish Minister of Trade, Kürsad Tüzmen, who is an alumnus of the College of Business. It was his first visit to campus since he graduated with his master's degree in 1991. While here, he visited some of his favorite places, met former professors, and gave a public lecture on the challenges of expanding Turkish trade.

Then Dean Ghosh and I headed to Asia to meet with company representatives, host alumni receptions, and interview prospective MBA candidates. Our first stop was Tokyo, then on to Seoul, and finally to Taipei—all in one week including travel time. In each city, we were impressed with the warm welcome we received from alumni.

The attendance at the receptions was excellent, and we learned that the alumni are doing well and still have fond memories of their time in Champaign-Urbana. They were anxious to hear College news but also to reconnect with former classmates and meet fellow alumni. In every city, they lingered long after the reception was scheduled to end.

Now it is back to focusing on the end of the school year. We are busy admitting next year's class, helping current students find internships and permanent positions, and preparing for all the activities associated with graduation, including the annual Tent Party—but more about that in the next issue.

Alumni Association Makes Effort to Increase Membership

By Ann Randall, Vice President of Illinois MBA Alumni Association

Similar to most organizations, the Illinois MBA Alumni Association is always on the lookout for new members. To that end, the Membership Committee of the Alumni Association was formed.

To foster a good relationship with the current students (and potential Alumni Association members), representatives of the Membership Committee have visited campus in the past to meet and talk with students. For example, two alumni attended the MBA Graduation Tent Party that took place during graduation weekend last year. It was a welcome opportunity for the alumni to socialize with the soon-to-be-graduated students. More on-campus events will be planned by the MBA Alumni Association in the upcoming year.

Beyond trying to extend the organization's reach to potential members, the Membership Committee also is responsible for the submission of a monthly article to this newsletter and has been charged with the task of keeping track of the mailing and e-mail addresses of Chicago-area alumni. See article on page 1 for more details on this initiative.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the IMBA Alumni Association or participating in any events, please contact the Association at alumni@business.uiuc.edu.

PROFILE

Teacher Extraordinaire

By Mary Miller, Associate Dean

Professor Nick Petruzzi is the 2006 recipient of the University of Illinois Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching. This is not surprising because he consistently receives recognition and awards from graduating MBAs who have taken his courses. If you meet him in the hall or in the classroom, you immediately notice his energy and enthusiasm—and he looks young enough to be one of the students.

According to Cory Cruser, a second-year student, “One of the most amazing things about Professor Petruzzi is that he breaks down a very complicated subject like operations into two questions: How much? And when?” His courses are always in demand, no matter what the student’s concentration or career objective.

What he enjoys most about teaching for the MBA comes down to one single thing: the students. “Teaching is exhilarating because of the relationships that are cultivated by the classroom dynamic,” asserts Professor Petruzzi.

Professor Petruzzi earned his PhD in operations management from Purdue University. His research focuses on



Professor Nick Petruzzi is the 2006 recipient of the University of Illinois Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching.

creating and analyzing pricing models, specifically in the areas of revenue management and supply chain coordination. He describes operations as the study of how to use limited resources most productively, a key element of any manager’s portfolio.

When he is not busy in the classroom or doing research, Professor Petruzzi enjoys spending time with his wife and three children.

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Student Recruiters Honored at Appreciation Lunch

By Ben Moreland, Assistant Director of Admissions

On Friday, April 21, MBA students were honored for their recruiting efforts during the 2005–2006 school year with an awards lunch at the Illini Union Ballroom. “The students have really been going out of their way to help us attract the incoming class. We wanted to show our appreciation by organizing this event for a great group of men and women,” said Jackie Wilson, Director of Admissions.

It is important that prospective students feel welcomed when they come to visit the UIUC campus and MBA classes. Our student recruiters welcomed prospective students as if they were already part of the Illinois MBA. Awards were presented to those students who showed exceptional commitment to recruiting the Class of 2008.

Ryan Murphy was presented with the “Lunch Master” award for regularly volunteering to answer applicants’ questions over a good meal. Cory Cruser was awarded for informing applicants about the activities of Illinois Business Consulting, while Brian Precious received a similar award as a representative for the Center for Entrepreneurial Development. A special award was given to Paul Johnson for meeting and interviewing applicants during his international travels.

Awards were also given to Chim Chin, Rob Pennington, Omer Ozgozukara, Don Bart, and Matt Cuff for their outstanding recruiting efforts. Student PAs Irene Yao, Charlotte Han, Anwuli Okeke, and Kapil Rajurkar were honored for their year-long administrative and recruiting responsibilities for the Illinois MBA.

Illinois MBA Students Find Success in International Business Case Competition

By Sharon Yoon, Assistant Director of Student Affairs

Jason Anglyn, Penny Lin, Raphael Susanto, and Chim Chin represented the Illinois MBA at the annual Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) MBA International Business Case Competition on April 6–9 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This high-profile event brought together teams of MBA students from Denmark, Hong Kong, Italy, Thailand, and a number of domestic institutions in order to address a challenging international business strategy case.

The team members, accompanied by their faculty advisor, Anju Seth, were thrilled when they were awarded third place. “It was exciting to win third, knowing that we were competing against some of the best teams in the world. I was proud to be able to represent the Illinois MBA,” said Jason Anglyn, team leader.

Teams had 24 hours to analyze a case concerning the international business strategy of Lenovo, a computer company in China that recently purchased IBM’s PC division for \$1.75 billion. The team spent all day brainstorming, collaborating, outlining key issues, and creating slides in preparation for their presentation. Early Saturday morning students presented strategic solutions and recommendations to a panel of judges gathered from the international business community.

CLUB ROUNDUP

The MBAA Corner

By Savva Amusin, MBAA Executive Vice President

As we near the end of this school year, I can't help but notice how quickly the two-year MBA program flies by. The MBAA held the Spring Gala on Friday, April 28, as part of an event-packed "Seniors Week" focused on honoring and saying farewell to our second-year students. Fortunately the opportunity to be involved in a community of MBA alumni after we graduate is something that can last for a lifetime.



As the Executive Vice President my primary goal is to reach out to our alumni and help them connect with our students as well as with one another. To this end, with the help of the MBAA Alumni Relations Committee, the Career Services office, and our friends at the Alumni Association in Chicago, we recently organized Career Quest 2006. This daylong event brought together over 45 students and 16 alumni and allowed our students to gain key industry knowledge and advice. Such alumni events are incredibly valuable, and as our MBAA president, Chris Mulh, points out in his article on his recent trip to the Global Business Conference, alumni networks are a cornerstone of any successful MBA program.

Looking ahead, the Alumni Relations Committee will be focused on helping to update our alumni database as well as planning for next year's Alumni Banquet. In these and other ways, we are excited to contribute to a positive, life-long MBA experience.

The MBA Talent Show

By Margretta Angdjasrin, WiB Club president

On Friday, April 15, about 50 MBA students, faculty members, and administrative members came together to watch the unique talents of members of our MBA community.

This year's event was made special by a vocal and guitar performance by our faculty professor Joe Broschak. Benjamin Lester played both harmonica and guitar to accompany his second song, "Long May You Run" by Neil Young, which was dedicated to the second-year MBAs. Aaron Pollack performed two songs that he had written; Brandon Black entertained with a classical saxophone solo; and Ahmet Karan performed two popular songs from Turkey on his electric guitar.

"I really had a good time. I hope to discover more of the students' hidden talents in next year's show," said Ben Moreland, Assistant Director of Admissions. Monica Belalcazar expressed that the WiB talent shows not only display the multiple cultures represented in the MBA program but also the feelings and thoughts of some of the more soft-spoken members of the MBA.

The event was organized by Gizem Yazici (WiB VP of External Communication) and Xiangyi Xie (WiB VP of Finance). WiB would like to thank all the performers, as well as everyone who attended and helped during the preparation.



Brandon Black plays at the MBA talent show.



Margretta Angdjasrin and Monica Belalcazar at LABS Spa Day.

Latin American Business Society (LABS)

By Clara Spaanstra, LABS President

The Latin American Business Society (LABS) was pleased to host "Latinos in Business: A Legacy of Cumulative Achievements" on April 4. LABS gathered approximately 25 participants including professors Nick Petruzzi, Michael Pratt, and Kathryn Rybka.

The main speaker was Mr. Antonio Lugo, a business development specialist for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), which is a federal agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The sole purpose of the MBDA is to foster growth within the minority business community. Mr. Lugo provided useful information about minority-owned businesses in the United States and how they can grow by using government resources of information.

In addition, LABS held a "Spa Day" fundraising event on April 11. Participants had the chance to enjoy massage sessions given by Jim Jeffers, a professional masseur. In addition, Monica Belalcazar provided manicures, and Gizem Yazici led a one-hour makeup class.

All of these services were complemented with drinks, pastries, and good music. The main goal of the event was to raise money in order to fund a trip to South America and future LABS professional activities.