

Sixth Street Journal 2.0

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois MBA

NEWS

MBA Convocation 2006

By Sharon Yoon, Assistant Director of Student Affairs

“Create your day,” challenged Jan Valentic, a distinguished alumna of the Illinois MBA and guest speaker at this year’s MBA Convocation. Graduation day was certainly one day that the 2006 MBA graduates created by their efforts. The graduating class of 2006 was honored on Saturday, May 13, in Foellinger Great Hall at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Speakers included graduating students Steven deMilliano (Executive MBA) and James Keating (Illinois MBA); Everett Westmeyer (President of the College of Business Alumni Association); and Jan Valentic (Executive Vice President at Young & Rubicam). In addition, Penny Lin and Brian Precious were recognized as MBA students-of-the-year, and Dr. Nicholas Petruzzi was recognized as the recipient of the 2006 Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching. Finally, the 2006 Legacy Committee presented a \$50,000 gift to Dean Avijit Ghosh to establish a scholarship on behalf of the Class of 2006.



College alumnus Michael Krasny, University President B. Joseph White, Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois MBA alumnus Michael Tokarz, Trustee Larry Eppley, Dean Avijit Ghosh, College alumnus Avy Stein, and Chancellor Richard Herman break ground for the new business instructional facility.

Congratulations to the Illinois MBA Class of 2006! We wish you all the best and want to echo Ms. Valentic’s words—“Create your day”—for all your future endeavors.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

By Chris Mulh, MBAA President

On April 28, over 250 alumni, faculty, staff, and students gathered beneath a large tent at the southwest corner of Sixth and Gregory. A celebration was in order, as 20-plus years of hope had finally culminated in the groundbreaking of a new, state-of-the-art business facility. The Groundbreaking Ceremony began with a [video](#) featuring UIUC staff, students, and faculty, showcasing the impact the new building will have on the College of Business.

Dean Avijit Ghosh then thanked the alumni, corporate partners, faculty, staff, and friends of the College whose generous donations made the construction possible. President B. Joseph White emphasized the pivotal role the College of Business plays in the overall continuous improvement strategy of the University.

Other distinguished speakers included Illinois Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Chancellor Richard Herman, Board of Trustees chairman Larry Eppley (’82 MAS), and Campaign co-chairs Mike Tokarz (’71 and ’73 MBA) and Avy Stein (’77). They all stressed that it was Dean Ghosh’s tremendous persistence and hard work that ultimately brought the plans for the new facility to fruition.

After the speeches, cake was distributed, and a champagne toast concluded the event. The ceremony capped off a day of activities that included a “thank you” luncheon for trustees and donors and a panel discussion on the future of higher education, led by President B. Joseph White, President emeritus Stanley Ikenberry, and Chancellor Richard Herman.

JUNE 2006

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 21 - August 14 :
Preparatory English Program

August 16 - August 21:
PreTerm 2006

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Sixth Street Journal 2.0 is a publication of the Illinois MBA, 1407 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801 USA

NEWS

Message from the Associate Dean

By Mary Miller, Associate Dean

Another academic year has ended. The campus is devoid of students and quiet. Although it is nice to have a break, I miss them.



It has been a good year—for all of us.

The Class of 2007 adjusted well, and it was interesting to watch them change as they became accustomed to their “new MBA life.” They seem to be a closely knit group—and involved. They spent a lot of time on the fourth floor of DKH, and we always like that.

The Class of 2006 was less visible this year. With the core behind them, they took concentration classes and spent much time researching and applying for permanent jobs. Many were successful in their job searches and will be going to work all over the world for great companies: IBM, Samsung, Capital One, Intel, and Walgreens to name a few.

There was a re-focus on alumni. MBA alumni now have access to EASE, the Career Service database, and this will allow them to update their contact information online. We also had alumni receptions in Tokyo, Seoul, and Taipei and successful student-alumni career events in Chicago. We intend to spend more time and effort on maintaining these relationships and encouraging MBA alumni to stay connected to the MBA program and the College.

We hope all of you will enjoy the summer. We also hope that you will make plans to join us in Chicago on August 21 for our first Sunset Cruise to welcome the Class of 2008 and celebrate the beginning of another year.



Irene Yao, Jessie Wang, Sarat Ak-saraliksanti, Peter Lee, and Vincent Yang celebrate having bowled their best at the IMBA Bowl-a-Thon.

Starting a New Tradition: Weeklong Homage to Second-Year Students

By Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

The MBAA, in conjunction with Student Affairs, hosted a weeklong celebration in honor of the outgoing second-year MBA students. During “MBA2 Sendoff Week,” second-year MBAs were treated to a host of edibles and events in appreciation of their hard work and leadership.

Activities kicked off on Saturday, April 22, with an IMBA Bowl-A-Thon and were capped off with the annual Spring Gala at Champaign Country Club. The bowling competition pitted second-year students against both first-year students and administration in a friendly, yet fierce competition for bowling mastery.

Fittingly, a second-year team comprised of Anthony Sarnecki, Jason Anglyn, Brian Precious, Dion Soetadi, and Stephan Seyfert captured first place and in the process showed the first-year students that they still had a lot to learn. The second-year dominance spilled over into the following afternoon as the second-year softball team routed the first-year team in a Sunday afternoon matchup.

With finals around the corner and project deadlines mounting, second-year students were invited to take a break, relax, and grab a snack in the MBA club room on Tuesday, April 25. The MBAA and its registered organizations gave back generously to the second-years in the form of snack bars, pretzels, water, and plenty of fresh coffee that was sure

CAREER SERVICES

MBA Career Services Wraps Up Another Year

By Julie Sweet, Assistant Director of Career Services

MBA Career Services is wrapping up another successful recruiting year. Our 2006 graduates are starting their jobs for companies such as BearingPoint, Walgreens, IBM, AT&T, Samsung, and Capital One to name a few. We wish all of our graduates much success!

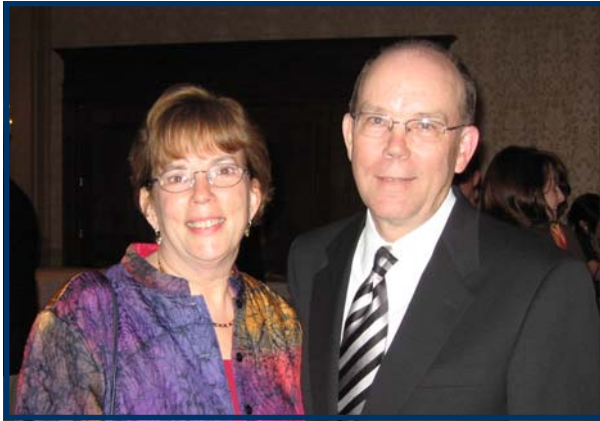
As we look ahead to fall recruiting, please remember that we offer free résumé referrals and job posting services to all employers. If your company is hiring and would like to consider IMBA candidates for an internship and/or full-time opportunities, please contact Career Services by email at MBACareerServices@uiuc.edu or by telephone at 217-244-8563. You can also create an Employer Account in EASE (www.easemba.com/mbauic/) and post an employment position.

Also, we would like to thank over 500 MBA alumni who have logged in to the new EASE Alumni Database (www.easemba.com/mbauic/) and updated their information. We will continue to use the home page of the database to alert you of any updates and changes. It is our hope that you find the new database to be easier to access and update, and we appreciate your participation and patience as we try to improve your ability to connect with other IMBA alumni.

to help them get through the final weeks.

Along with Second-Year Finale and the Spring Gala, MBA2 Sendoff Week offered a variety of activities that helped first-year students show their appreciation for and strengthen their friendships with the graduating students.

PROFILE



Susan Cohen and George Monahan make an appearance together at the 2006 Spring Gala.

The Power Couple

By Mary Miller, Associate Dean

Many students did not realize that Professors Susan Cohen and George Monahan were married until they showed up at the Spring Gala together. They both teach in the MBA core, and they both earned PhDs from Northwestern University in Managerial Economics & Decision Sciences, but that is where the similarities end.

Professor Cohen is outgoing and visibly enthusiastic—about all sorts of things—especially her teaching. In addition to her core MBA teaching responsibilities, she coordinates the joint Executive MBA program the College offers with Warsaw University. She speaks a few words of Polish, and when she is in Poland teaching or meeting with students, she loves to shop for bargains—just ask the Polish students! She grew up in New York City but considers herself a Midwesterner at heart.

Professor Monahan is more reserved, and although he is just as committed to his teaching, it takes some time to get to know him. He was born in Arizona, but he grew up in Milwaukee. He is a former recipient of the MBA Alumni Award for his contributions to the MBA program. He has been a visiting scholar at the London School of Economics, and his textbook, *Management Decision Making: Spreadsheet Modeling, Analysis, and Applications*, is widely used. In his free time, he enjoys VBA programming (just ask his students), reading, golf, listening to classical music, and pool.

When they have time, you may see them trying out new restaurants and sampling good wine. They are 20-year residents of Urbana and are the proud parents of a daughter, who is finishing her second year of law school, and a son, who is an actor living in Los Angeles. The only “children” at home are Sammy, their black lab, and Petey, their constantly talking parakeet.

MBAA Launches Illinois MBA Apparel

By Chris Mulh, MBAA President

The MBAA is excited to launch The New Collection of Illinois MBA Apparel. After surveying many students and alumni, the MBAA Fundraising Committee, chaired by Li-Anne Foo, worked very hard to meet the demands of our potential consumers. The line has three basic items: t-shirts, polo shirts, and hooded sweatshirts, and can be purchased or viewed at www.illinoismbaa.org. Ordering and delivery procedures are explained on the website. All of the items are very high in both quality and comfort. IMBA students Paul Johnson and Rita Lei should also be commended for their efforts in bringing the new line to fruition.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MBA Alumni Association Seeking New Board Members

By Ann Randall, Vice President of Illinois MBA Alumni Association

The current Illinois MBA Alumni Board has hosted many events over its tenure: networking events, educational panels and discussions, social events, and even a baseball outing or two. In order for these events to continue, the Alumni Association relies on its board members to organize and host such events. The board members have also been involved in activities to assist the MBA program, such as recruiting weekends and CareerQuest panel discussions.

The Alumni Board is actively seeking new board members (including Class of 2006 alumni) to help with similar activities and to plan new events. Board members may be based out of the Chicagoland area or Champaign-Urbana. If you are interested in joining the Board or finding out more information, please contact us at alumniaffairs@business.uiuc.edu.

Upcoming Events for Alumni

Please be aware of invitations or announcements related to the following upcoming events. If you have any questions about upcoming activities, please contact us at alumniaffairs@business.uiuc.edu.

- Second Tuesdays – Elephant & Castle Pub in downtown Chicago, held on second Tuesday of each month
- Sunset Cruise with incoming MBA students – Monday, August 21 (See article on page 4)
- Wine-tasting event during the summer – Date TBD
- Homecoming weekend – Tent Party

MBAA CORNER

Semester in Review: A Trip Down Memory Lane

By Radhika Makhija, Vice President of Programs

Looking back down the memory lane of my first year as an MBA student and as the Vice President of Programs, I am surprised at how sad it feels to be leaving for the summer. Although there is a lot to look forward to over the summer, I am already nostalgic.



After the winter break, IMBA students returned rejuvenated, and the new MBAA board and club officers took the reins. The new board helped create an action-packed semester with events such as the Women in Business Leadership conference, Super Bowl Ad-Bowl, International Food Night, Spa Day, Spring Gala, and MBA2 Sendoff Week.

In my role as VP of Programs, I coordinated with our clubs to ensure that IMBA offers a variety of events. We have worked to increase the number and quality of these events. Kudos goes to the Latin American Business Society (LABS), Women in Business (WiB), and the Graduate Finance Association (GFA) for outstanding performances this past semester; they organized more than the mandatory two events per semester and did a great job with each of these events. (All other clubs did a great job as well.)

There are some outstanding events planned for next year including a Global Business Conference. Please visit www.illinoismbaa.org and find a list of events for the entire year and to view the new Illinois MBA apparel.

By offering social events that focus on these areas, I truly believe the MBAA can provide activities and experiences that complement the classroom and enhance the Illinois MBA experience.



Illinois MBA alumni, students, and staff will enjoy a scenic cruise on the Kanan, a vessel that is located at Chicago's Navy Pier.

The Sunset Cruise

By Annetta Culver, Director of Student Affairs

We are excited to announce that a spectacular sunset cruise will be included in the 2006 PreTerm activities, and you are invited to join us. The cruise will be hosted on the fabulous Kanan, a vessel located at Chicago's Navy Pier.

The two-hour cruise will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 21, and will offer an opportunity for you to enjoy the magnificent Chicago skyline and lakefront views with faculty, staff, and students of the Illinois MBA.

Mark your calendar now to join this cruise, and look for your special email invitation later this summer.

PEOPLE

Illinois MBA Graduates Find Success in Two Worlds

By Ben Moreland, Assistant Director of Admissions

Most students, when pursuing their MBA, carry with them dreams of a solid education and future business success. For Illinois MBA alumni Lin Gao and Hubert Lin (both Class of 1998), that dream was only the beginning.

Lin Gao was born and raised in China. Thanks to a scholarship offer from the University of Illinois, she had the opportunity to study in the Illinois MBA. Hubert Lin was born in Taiwan but raised in Seattle. They met each other at orientation; and they were married the day after they graduated.

When Associate Dean Mary Miller talked to the couple at an MBA fair in Beijing last year, Lin Gao explained how, after working for five years at Motorola in Arlington Heights, Illinois, she was offered a promotion to work at the Motorola plant in Beijing. Hubert left his job at Accenture in Chicago and took a position in Beijing as an IT manager for Sony Ericsson. Lin Gao says that their abilities to speak both languages fluently and to understand each culture have been their greatest assets for professional success.

The transition has not been easy, as Hubert has spent most of his life in the United States, but the opportunities China has for economic development in technology has made this a worthwhile career move for the couple. Their career paths have certainly opened up future opportunities for their 20-month-old son, Aiden, who will gain access to the best of both worlds.

A full article on Hubert Lin, Lin Gao, and China's economic development may be found at <http://www.dailyherald.com/special/crossingchina/part2.asp>.

CLUB ROUNDUP

Spring Gala: An Evening of Music, Dancing, and Celebration

By Rahul Kalsi, VP of Social Programs

The Illinois MBA enjoyed tremendous turnout for this year's Spring Gala. Students, faculty, and administration joined together to celebrate the end of another school year.

The event took place on the evening of Friday, April 28, at Champaign Country Club. As the final event of MBA2 Send-off Week, the Spring Gala brought out students who sought the opportunity to mingle with their classmates one last time before leaving the university for the summer, or for the graduates, to start their new careers. Others simply wanted an excuse to dress up and go dancing.

Whatever the motivation, it was a welcome break from another semester of hard work. Thank you to everyone who attended.



Graduating IMBA students gather for one last picture together at the Spring Gala. Seated (L to R): Jung Lee, Charlotte Han; Standing (L to R): Pedro Castañeda, Peter Bosma, Penny Lin, and Brian Crissie.

International Business Society (IBS)

By Brandon Black, Class of 2007

The International Business Society (IBS) and Asian Business Society (ABS) co-sponsored the International Business Quiz Show, "IQ Show," on Thursday, April 20. Approximately 40 MBA students attended the event. Free pizza was enjoyed by everyone regardless of whether or not they answered questions.

Se Hun (Jerry) Jung instructed the participants on the rules, regulations, and procedures for answering questions correctly. Many participants were eliminated in the first round. In the later rounds, the competition became more intense. There were several tiebreakers, but Ya-Ju (Cherry) Chiu emerged as the winner of the event and received a \$25 gift certificate to TIS for her superior performance.

The International Business Society is excited about next year's events and the opportunity to introduce the club to new MBA students. IBS will be working with other MBA clubs in order to plan a business conference in the fall of 2006.

Graduate Finance Association (GFA)

By Aaron Smith, Class of 2007

To close out the semester, the GFA hosted Bryant Evans of Cozad Asset Management to speak to members of the club. There were several members in attendance, all of whom had prepared excellent questions. Mr. Evans provided great insight into his industry.

Reflecting on the semester, we are pleased with the events and their success. Events included the stock competition, the speaker Bryant Evens, and two new events: the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) tour and the formation of sub-committees.

We look forward to the fall semester, as we have planned more activities. We will continue with the sub-committee, with hopes of having a final gathering where all committees can present their deliverables. Additionally, we plan to host a speaker who will discuss personal financing, student loans, and retirement investing.

Thanks to all who participated in our activities throughout the year, and let's make next semester more successful.

MBAs of Color (MBAC)

By Arthur Scales, Jr., President of MBAC

During the spring semester of 2006, the MBAs of Color focused on recruiting future minority MBA students from the

University of Illinois College of Business. Our spring program, which highlighted this initiative, was the MBAC Panel Discussion for the University of Illinois undergraduate chapter of the National Black MBA Association.

We are very excited about all of the programs that we have planned for next fall. Our primary events will be the annual Wine and Cheese Social and the first Global Business Conference, for which we will collaborate with the Latin American Business Society (LABS), Asian Business Society (ABS), and International Business Society (IBS).

The MBAs of Color also plan to change their name next semester to the Black MBA Association (BMBAA) in order to more closely assimilate our group to the National Black MBA Association. MBAC is headed by its president, Arthur Scales Jr., and vice president of finance, Aaron Pollack.

Latin American Business Society (LABS)

By Clara Spaanstra, LABS President

MBA LABS had the pleasure of hosting four events during the spring of 2006.

The MBA LABS board would like to thank MBA students for participating in our events and to invite them to our upcoming events next fall, such as the Global Business Conference—which will be organized along with the International Business Society (IBS), Asian Business Society (ABS), and MBAs of Color (MBAC)—and the LABS Soccer Challenge.



Board members of LABS show their enthusiasm at the end of an event-packed semester: Mike McIntosh, Clara Spaanstra, Shawn Sorsby, and Monica Belalcazar.