Happy Holidays, EMBA Alumni!

As we close out 2012, thank you for the warm welcome to the UT Dallas Executive MBA program. I look forward to our collaborative success in 2013!

December Events

Thank you for your participation in making these events a success!

PowerGrid

On December 6, nearly 80 JSOM alumni and this year's JSOM graduates gathered in the atrium for the final PowerGrid event of the year. The message shared by Dean Hassan Pirkul and Assistant Dean of Development and Alumni Relations, Erica Yaeger, was one of community. The alumni network grew by an additional 800 JSOM graduates this December, resulting in a business school network of 29,000 people. Are you leveraging this powerful tool? For more information on future PowerGrid meetings contact Courtney Echols at 972.883.5884 or courtney.echols@utdallas.edu.

2012 Holiday Party

On December 14, more than 300 alumni and faculty from Executive Education joined us for this year’s holiday party. We have pictures that we’ll download to Shutterfly. We’ll pass the link, username, and password to you in our January newsletter.

Upcoming Recruiting Events

Please talk to prospective students and encourage them to join us at upcoming recruiting events. We'd love to have you join us, too!

Thursday, January 10, Coffee with the Director, 7 a.m.
Starbucks, 101 W. Campbell Road, Richardson (southwest corner of US 75 and Campbell Road)

Saturday, January 19, Info Session, 10:30 a.m.
JSOM, Executive Education
Monday, January 29, Coffee with the Director, 7 a.m.
Starbucks, 101 W. Campbell Road, Richardson (southwest corner of US 75 and Campbell Road)

Saturday, February 16, Info Session, 10:30 a.m.
JSOM, Executive Education

Saturday, April 13 MBA Open House, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
JSOM, Atrium

Please contact Connie Imhof at 972.883.5983 or cimhof@utdallas.edu if you can join us for one or more of these events.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Gain beneficial new connections and reconnect with former classmates. Hope to see you!

Wednesday, February 13, PowerGrid
Join us for this alumni networking opportunity scheduled at the new Perot Museum. Additional details to follow in the January newsletter.

Class of 2013, Taipei, Taiwan and Beijing, China, April 4-14
The Class of 2013 will soon be traveling to Taipei and Beijing for its international trip. Costs are estimated at $5,350, including airfare, hotel, ground transportation and some meals. The international trip is also offered to alumni (not guests). We need to know by Monday, January 14, 2013, if you want to join us. For more information, please contact Connie Imhof at 972.883.5983, cimhof@utdallas.edu.

"Back to School"
Are you ready to head back to school? Each semester, I will send you a list of courses (below, with professors’ names in parentheses) that are being offered to our EMBA students and to you if you would like to observe a class. If you are interested, you will need to register with the Registrar's Office and officially audit the course. Each course costs $100 and you will need a parking permit.

Financial Management (Dr. Rebello)
Business Economics (Dr. Arce)
Governance, Risk and Compliance (Dr. Konstans)
Global Business (Dr. Woldu)
Strategic Financial Management (Dr. Springate)
Negotiation/Dispute Resolution (Dr. Bolton)

Please contact me at Pamela.fosterbrady@utdallas.edu or 972.883.4235 if you are interested in observing a class. I'm also interested in your suggestions for educational, networking and social events you would like to attend in 2013.
Recently I have had much concern with quality Executive MBA programs. The questions I am addressing relate to content, faculty, orientation of courses, frameworks, etc. Just yesterday, I was asked a more basic question that might interest you. The question was, "How does the Executive MBA program differentiate itself from other variations of an MBA program? What is it about the program that makes it different?"

Most basically, that which differentiates programs is not the format (length, days, period, mode of delivery) or the curriculum or assigned faculty per se. While each is an important consideration for those searching for a suitable program and those designing programs, I do not believe these are the most important differentiators of an Executive MBA program from other MBA program formats at a given school. There are two.

The first of these is the composition and career positions of its participants and how they are taught. The student body is comprised of experienced professionals or managers who are keen to use substantial personal experience and history as building blocks in an interactive educational process. By design, Executive MBA programs use the individual's past as a prism for understanding, participating in debate and building capability for a future career path. This career path itself is very often much more sharply defined, or even recalibrated, by the individual as the program evolves.

Further, Executive MBA participants have chosen to involve classmates from other perspectives, industries and career paths in their educations. An Executive MBA class in any area is normally structured around exchanging views. The combination of bringing substantial experience to class and actively working with classmates from different backgrounds in formal activities is unique to Executive MBA programs. It cannot be replicated in cohort programs with younger participants or in-company programs.

Engaged faculty members are, of course, essential to the process. The relevant experiences, reflections, and outlooks need to be brought in at appropriate times as a program or course evolves and as professors raise needed concepts and frameworks for consideration. The instruction plays to the participants' aspirations and experience.

The second, and not unrelated, differentiator of any worthwhile Executive MBA program is the implied commitment to excellence built upon belief in the power of education. The interactive approach to development outlined in the previous paragraphs works only if the student body brings commitment to the process and only if faculty brings a similar commitment to its responsibilities. The more these commitments affect actions, the better the result. Said another way, both participants and faculty have to believe that the educational process will result in a very positive outcome in order for an Executive MBA program to be effective. Indeed, the underlying emphasis of such programs is activity-led participant development. Without it, the process works poorly at best. Excellence or
belief in educational process on the part of faculty or class alone is not enough to make a program viable.

It follows that a school must think similarly. Importantly, not all managerial schools have Executive MBA programs. Not all believe they can mount and deliver a program where a sustained commitment to excellence through an active two-way educational process is a prime requirement in making the program work well for its participants.

Program director Pamela Foster Brady wrote the formula below on the board at a recent directors’ meeting. This encapsulated her view of the requirements of a successful executive education program.

Q + (D * CE) = R → G, where Q represents program quality, D, the program differentiation, CE, "cutting edge" content, and R represents Reputation leading to G, growth.

She was correct in identifying the elements necessary for Executive MBA program reputation and growth. She was also correct to hold that such programs deliver great results to program participants when both faculty and participants believe in education and share a quest for excellence in the process. Because of its educational structure and premises for development, this latter condition is a necessity if an Executive MBA program is to succeed. Further, this condition is unique to Executive MBA programs and does not hold for all MBA program formats or cohorts.

Taking advantage of program differentiators makes sense!

The Class of 2013 and Class of 2014

Each month, I’ll give you a snapshot of what each class is doing.

On December 1, the Class of 2013 hosted the Class of 2014 for a happy hour after class in the Atrium. On December 8, Oscar Chavarria (2013) passed the Springate Cup to Allison Lawrence for her demonstrated leadership in the classroom. Oscar also gave her Enchantment - The Art of Changing Hearts, Minds and Actions by Guy Kawasaki for holiday reading.

Both classes are relieved to be on winter break until January 18, 2013!

The Class of 2015

We held a "Coffee with the Director" event on December 19 with prospective students. We also had prospective students join us for lunch
on December 1. Thanks to Charles Gillis (2004) for joining us on campus.

Do you know a talented functional leader, that has C-suite potential, and would be interested the EMBA Class of 2015? Please have them contact me at pamela.fosterbrady@utdallas.edu or 972.883.4235 or Connie Imhof at 972.883.5983, cimhof@utdallas.edu for additional information.

**UT Dallas Executive MBA Alumni Council**

**Communications Committee**

Piyush Sinha (2011) has agreed to serve in a leadership role with support from Jon McBride (2011), Grace Crane (2012) and Jen Fox (2012). The first Communications Committee teleconference was held on December 5 to discuss our purpose, which is to engage alumni in upcoming events, highlight recent events, recognize the efforts of our alumni, and create educational experiences for our alumni through social media. In January, we'll reveal our refreshed Linked In page, our Facebook page and our alumni website. You will even be able to follow us on Twitter.

**Events Committee**

Jen Fox (2012) has agreed to lead the Events Committee, in addition to co-lead our Emerging Women’s Leaders group (co-chaired by Evie McGerr (2012)).

**UT Dallas Capital Campaign**

As we wrap up 2012, UT Dallas completes year three of the five-year capital campaign - Realize the Vision: The Quest for Tier One & Beyond. The University is closer to reaching the $200M goal with more than $148M already secured. The Jindal School of Management, which has the largest campaign goal of any school with a $50M target, has raised nearly $34M. One way EMBAs are getting involved is by creating class opportunity funds. These permanently endowed funds will provide unrestricted support directly to the EMBA program in perpetuity. Interest distributions from the EMBA Opportunity Funds will provide the flexible resources needed to meet critical needs and take advantage of timely opportunities, further strengthening the program. For more information on these funds, contact Marcus Baker at marcus.baker@utdallas.edu or 972.883.6298.

**Baby News!**

*Congratulations to our proud parents!*

Will McIntosh (2006) and his wife Grace announce the arrival of son, Ethan Liam McIntosh, on November 26.

Jen Fox (2011) and his wife Terra announce the birth of daughter, Kaia Grace McGhee, on November 27.
I hope each of you have a relaxing holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Pamela Foster Brady
Director, Executive MBA