WELCOME TO IB²

How can students, alumni, faculty and friends of the International Business programs at UM-St. Louis stay connected in a 21st century world? The answer is obvious – use technology to bridge distances of geography and time. After an extensive effort to gather feedback from international business alumni around the world, the choice was clear – an online business networking site. The result ... IB²!

IB² stands for International Business Bond and is the new internet-based networking platform for international business students, alumni, faculty, and business partners of the International Business Institute at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Because the International Business programs at UM-St. Louis have so many international students, IB² was designed to foster an environment where students could develop and maintain invaluable lifelong relationships with their peers from around the world while on campus and as they transitioned into their careers. For alumni, IB² provides a great way to stay connected with former mentors and friends while sharing valuable insight into business practices and experiences around the world.

The vision of IMBA alums and co-founders, Kerstin Wagner and Amy Warren, was to help IB students to form lifelong relationships while studying international business. They also wanted to provide the community with a platform to network with friends, colleagues, and business partners during the early stages of their international business careers, providing a valuable tool for their future success. Kerstin Wagner, who was a member of a similar student and alumni club in Austria, says, “It was time to give the IB Institute an easy way to connect globally with all their stakeholders.” Thus, the Institute set up a content management-based online platform to facilitate access to global networking opportunities, lifelong learning, career development, newsletters, forums, discussion groups and unique social experiences.

In addition to student and alumni participation, the vision is to acquire active faculty and business partners. The International Business Institute has invaluable global business partners that it warmly welcomes to join IB², which promises opportunities to interact with a vast pool of knowledgeable and enthusiastic students and alumni. By actively engaging in IB² events, career days, semester openings, and case study competitions, our business partners can uncover future employees and market themselves at the same time. Likewise, IB² provides a useful platform for the prolific researchers among the faculty at UM-St. Louis to publish their successful achievements, post events they are hosting and be more engaged with the student body and alumni.

Security at IB² is insured through several mechanisms; one of which requires the users to first register and be confirmed by the IB² Administrator in order to be granted access to features and information specific to other IB² members. Becoming part of the IB² is easy, but it does require an active commitment – your registration! Log on to www.ibsquare.net and experience it for yourself.

Pushing the Boundaries, Delivering Results!
Unexpected Benefit of Internship Program

The 2008 International MBA graduates arrived on campus at UM-St. Louis in August of 2007 in anticipation of completing the second year of a specialized dual Masters Degree program. This year’s contingent consisted of 12 students from Nanjing University in China, four students from Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration in Austria, and two students from Universite Robert Schuman in France. This is the second graduating class of students who have received a Masters Degree from their home universities, where they attended the first year of this two-year program, and an International MBA from UM-St. Louis. In the next two years, students from India, Mexico, and Japan will also participate.

One of the highlights of this program is the opportunity for each student to participate in an internship placement the summer after they complete their classroom studies. For the second year, UM-St. Louis was able to place interns at some of St. Louis’ premier international companies including Anheuser Busch, Peabody Coal, Emerson Motor Technologies, Silgan Plastics, Scottrade and Solutia, among others. Additionally, many students were hired for internships with new partner organizations at Build-A-Bear, Commerce Bank, Novus International, Metal Exchange Corporation, Chemia Corporation, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, and the United Nations. This has proven to be a mutually beneficial arrangement for both student and employer. Since all of the students have had several years of work experience in their home countries, interns have been able to combine their classroom education and previous work expertise to produce great results for their U.S. employers.

Because the second group of students are still participating in their internships, it is too soon to know how many of them will receive offers to work for their U.S. employers after returning home. What is known, however, is that from the first graduating class of 25 students, more than half extended their internships beyond the required three months, and at least eight students were offered permanent positions to continue working for their St. Louis based companies in their home countries. Since all of the current employers have indicated they would like to continue to work with the UM-St. Louis International MBA students in future years, this trend is expected to continue. What an unexpected benefit for both interns and employers.

Zhan Tao, a current IMBA student, is interning with Silgan Plastics and has extended her internship an additional three months. Her remarks echo that of many of her cohorts. “I have a good internship opportunity and a nice boss. I have learned a lot. I really appreciate the exchange program between UM-St. Louis and Nanjing University.”

International Business Majors Find Success At Midwest Model European Union Competition

From April 17–19, 2008, seventeen students accompanied Professors Elizabeth Vining and Joyce Mushaben to the Midwest Model European Union, one of only a half-dozen events of its kind in the United States. Founded and hosted by Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) since 1993, the EU-Midwest provides hands-on simulation for students from universities around the country, helping them to learn about the workings of the European Union.

Colleges send delegations of at least seven students to represent the 27 countries of the European Union. The University of Missouri represented Poland and the Czech Republic, hosting two delegations. During a period of 48 hours, they meet in formal and informal sessions of the European Council, the European Commission, and several different Councils of Ministers. In these sessions, they introduce, discuss, and reach decisions on European policy. National leaders give the overall direction to policy, Commissioners design new policy, and Ministers give the final approval.

The students are expected to not only understand both the issues important to the European Union, but also to their respective countries, and to remain in character during the discussions. They learn quite a bit about the fine art of compromise and coalition building. At the end of the program, students in each of the session rooms voted for the student they felt represented his/her country the best for that particular role. There were seven rooms with approximately 27 students in each. The University of Missouri-St. Louis placed first in one, David Reynolds and Marcella Chirco (Environment Minister, Poland); tied for first in one, Gabriel Santos (Prime Minister – Czech Republic); and came in second in one, Nicole Williams (Environment Minister, Czech Republic). All of our students were winners – these individuals just happened to get the prize!
Advisory Board Member Spotlight: MICHAEL J. HACKETT

Michael J. Hackett has been named co-chair of the International Business Advisory Board in the College of Business Administration at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Hackett, 42, is president of Hackett Security Inc., an installation and monitoring alarm system business. Before starting the company in 1993, he worked for 13 years in the marketing department at Anheuser-Busch Co. Prior to that, he worked for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Hackett, a graduate from Saint Louis University, started Hackett Security out of his home. Over the years the company has expanded, moved locations, and now employs 55 individuals and has an annual revenue of $4 million. He is married with two children.

For more information about the International Business Institute, visit http://ib.umsl.edu/.

AWARD-WINNING FACULTY Best Symposium Panelist Award

For the second consecutive year, the Management Education Division of the Academy of Management recognized Dr. Allan Bird and Dr. Norihito Furuya as Best Symposium panelists. The Global Forum Best Symposium award is given each year to the panel that best addresses issues of management education in a global context. The title of this year’s award-winning symposium was “How Should We Assess and Develop Intercultural Competencies in Future Global Leaders?” Dr. Bird and Dr. Furuya presented research on a longitudinal project examining global leadership development they have been carrying out in several Japanese multinational corporations during the past six years. Dr. Bird is the Director of the International Business Institute and the Eiichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Professor of Japanese Studies. Dr. Furuya is CEO of the IGB Network Co., Ltd., and serves on the College of Business Administration’s International Business Advisory Board.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 9
Immigration Seminars - A Six-Part Series
DOES GLOBALIZATION MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR IMMIGRANTS?
Dr. Saskia Sassen - Department of Sociology,
Columbia University, NY

SEPTEMBER 9
Japanese Studies
ENTERING THE JAPANESE MARKET:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Dr. Parissa Haghiriyan - Associate Professor,
Liberal Arts, Sophia University, Tokyo

OCTOBER 1
Immigration Seminars - A Six-Part Series
IMMIGRATION AND THE U.S.: THE
CONTINUING DEMOGRAPHIC
TRANSFORMATION OF U.S. SOCIETY
Dr. James G. Gimpel - Department of
Government, University of Maryland

OCTOBER 9
5:30 J.C. Penney – Summit Lounge
Distinguished Speaker Series
Jim Weddle - Managing Partner, Edward Jones

IB Advisory Board Members

*Allan Bird
Director, of
International Business Institute, E.S.S.A
Professor of Japanese Studies
UM-St. Louis

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David Wang
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The Boeing Company

Keith Womer
Dean, College of
Business Administration
UM-St. Louis

Peter K. Yam
President
Emerson Electric
Company

*Co-Chairs
U.S. News and World Report ranked U.M.-St. Louis 16th in its America's Best Colleges of 2009 issue. U.M.-St. Louis undergraduate international Business Program has been ranked in the top 20 for six consecutive years.

U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges 2009
Best Colleges Specialty Rankings:
Undergraduate Business Specialties: International Business
1. University of South Carolina–Columbia
2. University of Pennsylvania
3. New York University
4. University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
5. University of Southern California
5. University of Texas–Austin
7. University of California–Berkeley
8. Georgetown University
9. University of Washington
10. Temple University
11. Florida International University
11. University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill
13. Northeastern University
14. San Diego State University
14. University of Maryland–College Park
16. University of Missouri–St. Louis
16. George Washington University
16. Indiana University–Bloomington
19. Brigham Young University–Provo
19. University of Hawaii–Manoa
19. University of Oklahoma
22. Babson College

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