Nearly 200 students from across the region converged at UM-St. Louis on February 27, 2009, to attend the International Business Career Conference (IBCC). Students from 11 different regional colleges and universities were rewarded for attending by having the opportunity to interact, often one-on-one, with executives and representatives from St. Louis-based organizations that work in the international marketplace. Area organizations that participated in this event included: Anheuser Busch In-Bev, Novus International, The Boeing Company, Hackett Security, AAA Translations, Department of Commerce, Peace Corps, Scottrade, Junior Chamber International, Hostelling International, International Business Exchange Program, and Siemens PLM Software, among others.

Students felt the interactive format of the conference gave them the opportunity to ask the presenters and panelists specific questions about the demands of the job market and opportunities available to them. Jennifer Duncan, UM-St. Louis student, said, “Usually, in the career fairs, the information is not of use to me personally, but this one was amazing!” Just as the students recognized the value of this interaction, so did Dr. L. Douglas Smith, Professor of Management Science and Director of the Center for Business and Industrial Studies, who remarked, “What a joy it was to see our students and members of the business community engaged with such positive energy today.”

Many of the sponsoring organizations and presenters have already offered to return for what they hope will be the second annual IBCC. Mark T. Cockson, Executive Director, Gateway Council of Hostelling International-USA, said, “We would be honored and pleased to sponsor again next year.” Others, such as Susanne Evens, President, AAA Translations, offered these remarks, “Bravo!...All of you did a fantastic job in putting this informative event together. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be a part of it.”

According to the organizing committee, the vision has always been that this would become an annual event, and based on its success, not only can it be proud of what it accomplished, it should expect the IB Career Conference to improve in quality and grow in size each year.
Colin Post, a recent graduate from UM-St. Louis, writes of his AIESEC internship experience in Peru:

AIESEC has given me the wonderful opportunity to live and work in Arequipa, Peru. I secured a business development position with Laboratorios Portugal, a consumer products manufacturer founded in 1864. The company was looking for an American to identify and pursue opportunities in hopes of expanding into new markets. My job entails everything involved in transforming a Peruvian company’s product line for the U.S. market: English translations, branding, modifying product claims for FDA guidelines, navigating import/export law, finding clients, securing product liability insurance, and the overall execution of a product launch across borders. I’m actually experiencing the concepts from my international business courses in concrete terms. At the same time, I’m living an exciting cultural adventure. I highly recommend AIESEC as a vehicle of opportunity for students wishing to find work abroad and embark on a career in international business.
Rodolfo Rivera has been named the newest member of the International Business Advisory Board in the College of Business Administration at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Mr. Rivera is a 1977 graduate of Ohio Northern University with a dual major in Spanish and Political Science and a 1980 Graduate of St. Louis University School of Law. At St. Louis University, Mr. Rivera was Assistant Managing Editor of the St. Louis University Law Review, and founder and president of the International Law Society. Mr. Rivera also studied international law at The Hague during the summer of 1979.

Mr. Rivera is currently the Director of Latin American Operations for Fidelity National Title Group. His primary responsibility is the expansion of Fidelity National Title Group’s presence in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Prior to joining Fidelity National Title Group, Mr. Rivera was in private practice with an emphasis on transactional work in Latin America. Mr. Rivera has traveled extensively throughout Latin America. He is fluent in English and Spanish.

He said he’s excited to serve on the advisory board and getting as much out of his experiences as he puts forth.

“I look forward to sharing my experiences with the international students,” Rivera said. “But more important, I look forward to learning from some of tomorrow’s leaders.”

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

Dr. Mueun Bae, former dean of the College of Business and Economics at Inha University in South Korea, is a visiting professor in the Marketing area for the Spring semester. Having received his Ph.D. from St. Louis University, he is no stranger to the St. Louis area. “I am feeling that St. Louis is my second hometown. It is always exciting to visit the places that I remember. I am feeling that I am going back to my heydays when I was in St. Louis University to pursue my Ph.D.”

Dr. Bae is conducting research on international comparisons of the determinants of customer satisfaction with high-tech software products such as game consoles and cellular phones. Professor Bae said, “I am looking forward to better understanding U.S. high-tech product consumers and their usage patterns during my visit. The success of high-tech products is not only related to technological aspects but also to how they appeal to users. Apple’s success is an example of this.”

Professor Bae was impressed by the warm welcome he received from Professor Haim Mano, Marketing Chair, and COBA Dean, Keith Womer, as well as the sincere support from the university. He was also very interested in the high status of international business programs in the U.S. “I sincerely appreciate the support from this school. If I have an opportunity, I would like to introduce this school to my university and develop a good relationship.”

Visiting Professor Conducts Research on Customer Satisfaction

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U.S. News and World Report ranked UM-St. Louis 16th in its America's Best Colleges of 2009 issue. UM-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 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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