IB graduates
10 years
3500 students

IB CASE Competition
5 years
60 teams

475 business students have studied abroad

$300,000 in gifts related to IB

$500,000 in gifts related to IB

IBCC
10 years
3500 students

RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY

9 IB faculty research fellows

10 IB faculty research associates

3.5M research grant dollars

36,000 citations in Google Scholar

70 peer-reviewed articles

Between 2010-2017, UMSL IB faculty were ranked #8 among the top 100 universities in the U.S.

15 years in the top 25

$175,000 in study abroad scholarships to COBA students

994 IB degrees

42,000 credit hours

IB graduates

Sent packin’!

$~500,000 in gifts related to IB
Quinceañera
15 years in the top 25!

In Latin American cultures, a 15th birthday calls for a special celebration. Known as a quinceañera, this milestone represents a “coming of age.”

The content of this year’s newsletter shows a similar growth and maturity of the International Business program and the Global Leadership and Management Department.

During this year, we not only celebrated 15 years on U.S. News and World Report’s Top 25 list, but 10 years of both the IMBA program and the International Business Career Conference, and six years of the IB Case Competition.

As you take a look inside IB, you will see additional accomplishments and growth over the last 15 years.

Our IB faculty ranked 8th among the top 100 U.S. universities in research productivity. They have received $3.5 million in research grants, published 70 peer-reviewed articles and have been cited over 36,000 times.

Our students were granted 994 degrees, received over $175,000 in scholarships and made 475 study abroad trips.

We have also added new members to the GLAM Advisory Board. Their support continues to enable opportunities like the IBCC, the Case Competition and our study abroad program.

Finally – maybe the most important part of our growth and maturity – we saw the grand opening of Anheuser-Busch Hall. This $20 million, 51,000-square-foot facility marks a significant milestone in our vital connection to the St. Louis and global communities. The state of Missouri and over 700 private and corporate donors contributed to this state-of-the-art business building.

Turn the pages and take a look inside IB at UMSL!

John Guckes
Independent Consultant, John Guckes & Associates, LLP

John Guckes
Independent Consultant, John Guckes & Associates, LLP

W. Scott Hine
Vice President, Novus International

Charles Hoffman
Dean, College of Business Administration, University of Missouri–St. Louis

Robert Jett III
Senior Legal Counsel, Global Information Services, Stryker Corporation

Timothy Nowak
Executive Director, World Trade Center Saint Louis

Rodolfo Rivera
Chief International Council Fidelity National Title

J. W. Rothman
Director, International Business Institute Chair, Global Leadership & Management

Dr. Joseph W. Rothman
Director, International Business Institute Chair, Global Leadership & Management

Joseph Rothman
Director, International Business Institute/Department Chair, Global Leadership & Management, University of Missouri–St. Louis

Shaker Sadasivam
Former President & CEO, SunEdison Semiconductor

Jay Shekelton
President, H-J International Inc.

Torbjorn (Turbo) Sjogren
Vice President, Global Modernization and Sustainment, The Boeing Company

Peter A. Smith
Vice President, Global Franchising, Enterprise Holdings, Inc.

Jorge Toro
President & CEO, Medinexo

Mark Weisheit
Vice-President, Planning and Business Development, Nidec Motor Corporation

Tom Wilson
Vice President, Global Communications & Marketing, Monsanto

The International Business Institute at the University of Missouri–St. Louis publishes IBI News for alumni, faculty, students and staff. The newsletter highlights the people and programs that make the institute great.
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It was cold and rainy. I had been traveling alone for a day and a half through flight delays and security checkpoints to reach a dark and sleepy little town about two hours north of Helsinki, Finland. I arrived in Seinäjoki, so now what? There is always a bit of anxiety and excitement when you travel abroad, but this felt different. I was attending an intensive, week-long course in a foreign country, with foreign professors and a cohort of foreign students. What would their teaching style be like? Would the students and I work well together? Would I make UMSL proud? Once my train pulled into the station, I found my way to the IMBA Global Master School’s welcome dinner. As soon as I walked into the restaurant, all of that anxiety went away. I was greeted by students and professors—all total strangers—and in a matter of a few short days, they became mentors, friends and teammates.

We would spend the next week together working through the nuances of the Finnish culture and economy as we prepared our presentation for the course’s client company, a local kitchen and bath fixture distributor, Helatukku. My team was comprised of two German students and an UMSL student from Taiwan, and we were charged with developing an improved social media strategy. I quickly experienced the privileges and disadvantages of being an American in this business environment. Although the whole course was taught in English, which was a privilege, we quickly found that we were missing the Finnish cultural perspective. We relied on interviews with Helatukku’s leadership team throughout the course, and with their insight, we were able to piece together the purchasing behavior and best marketing tactics for an average Finnish household.

I should mention that although we spent eight hours in class each day, our Finnish hosts were also incredibly gracious and introduced us to several local experiences in and around Seinäjoki—from a behind-the-scenes tour of Kyrö Distillery to a bonfire night in the snowy woods. Given the timing of the trip in late November, we also experienced the Thanksgiving holiday abroad. Our Finnish hosts treated us to a full service, traditional Finnish dinner (with turkey!) followed by time in the sauna and wood-fired hot tub.

Despite all of the comradery and fun while we were experiencing Finland with our new friends and colleagues, the demands of class never ceased. There was still studying to be done and an exam to take. It didn’t take long for the last day of the Global Master School to arrive, and our groups prepared for our presentations to Helatukku. As we got up in front of the room full of our professors, classmates and the executives of our client company, our group seemed calm and prepared. We immersed ourselves in this country and this company for a week, learning as much as we could and putting in hours upon hours of preparation. We were ready.

When all six presentations were over, our groups anxiously awaited feedback from Helatukku. Did we present helpful information? Would they use our research, strategies and suggestions? The managing director and development manager stood up and graciously thanked us all for our time and energy to help them improve and expand their business operations, and—surprise!—they chose our group’s presentation on social media strategy as their favorite.

With the presentations over, we shared a wonderful last meal with our new friends. It was tough saying goodbye and watching everyone leave at different times to pack, catch trains and make it to their next destination. To this day, many of us stay connected via social media, and I would not be surprised if several of the students in that program become top executives at major international companies one day. It was a true honor and pleasure to be a part of the 2017 Global Master School in Seinäjoki, Finland, and I am so grateful for UMSL and the International Business program for creating this partnership with Aschaffenburg and Seinäjoki.

IMBA in Seinäjoki, Finland  
By Katy Robertson, MBA, 2018
My Finnish experience began in November of 2016 when I walked into the study abroad office to inquire about the Bremen, Germany summer trip. Matt Lockaby asked me if I would be interested in going to a small town in Finland for the spring semester. He explained to me that there was a hefty scholarship to be granted to one applicant and that no one had applied. I took it, and I am so happy I did.

During my time in Finland, I took a mixture of culture and business courses. The great thing was that the things I was learning in the classroom were applicable to my experience abroad. Unlike the typical study abroad student, I was the only American, and I was living in a very international community. So, as the professors explained the cultural differences around the world, I was able to notice these characteristics from the different people I was encountering. For example, an important aspect of cultural differences is how different cultures handle time. My German friends, a very time-oriented culture, would text me plans for a “pre-party” in a very organized manner. They would tell me to meet at a certain apartment for an hour, and then we would leave for the big party. Now, this was not the case for my Spanish friends, who viewed time very differently and were much less concerned with the actual details of the evening.

While I was learning a lot, I was also growing and changing as a person. My priorities in life became clearer, and I somehow became even more independent. This was because I was on this journey all on my own; there was no one to hold my hand when I found myself in sticky situations.

This pushed me to develop better problem-solving skills and to think quickly on my feet while under pressure.

Another wonderful benefit of the trip was the relationships I built. I can count at least four incredibly amazing friends I am still in contact with. During this time, I felt like I was meeting other people who were like me – they lived to see this world and make the most of life. In fact, the semester in Finland enabled me to travel throughout Europe.

Maybe the best aspect of the trip was coming home to my wonderful family and friends who also noticed a big change in me. This solidified how awesome and life-changing my time abroad had been. It also gave me more drive and concentration to work as hard as possible to keep pursuing my dreams. As the saying goes, studying abroad is a fatal disease! I am already planning my next trip! This time I have my sights set on France for two different programs: a 6-week language and culture program in Lyon, and a semester-long stay in Paris at the great business school, ESSCA.
This winter intersession, Professor Michael Costello took 16 students to Belgium and the Netherlands to study international business and legal institutions. We stayed in Brussels and Amsterdam and visited international companies and organizations. Highlights of the study tour included visits to the European Union Commission and European Union Parliament.

On the first day in Brussels, the class paid a visit to the U.S. Embassy. Here, they elaborated on the rewards of being a foreign service officer. Anyone who is interested in taking the test to apply for a foreign service position is able to do so free of charge on the U.S. State Department’s website, which was really comforting to know. This way, if you’re not sure if you’re capable of applying for the service, you can easily take the test for free, and it will never be held against you whether or not you passed.

Brussels is a truly diverse city. Because it is home to many different EU operations, many citizens have moved from all over to this beautiful city. Citizens must be fluent in two of the nation’s official languages, French and Dutch, to work within major companies in the city. In addition, many residents know English very well. The tour guide at Vrije University, a native of Brussels herself, stated that many active residents utilize English as a third language because it is so commonly spoken by visitors.

All of the facilities we visited were very welcoming to us; it was almost as if we were home. In one instance, the class visited the NATO facility, SHAPE, in Brussels. Although this is a military base, they greeted us as friends. They did their absolute best to make sure that we were educated and understood the content of the presentation.

In Amsterdam, the hospitality was not only matched, but doubled. As we paid a visit to Royal Dutch Shell, one of the leading petroleum producers in the world, we were met with piles of souvenirs and sweets. Academically, this visit was a highlight of the trip because of Shell’s extensive track record. The company is not only one of the leading innovators in the petroleum industry, but it also leads in the practice of ethical and green production facilities. Currently, the company is funding research into cleaner solutions such as liquefied natural gas, a cleaner alternative to petroleum.

The class visited many U.S. facilities in Amsterdam as well, including the U.S. Consulate. This consulate’s mission is to celebrate the culture that is shared between the U.S. and the Netherlands as well as promote healthy economic growth between the two countries.

Two weeks felt immensely short. Belgium and the Netherlands are two very beautiful and historic countries that have far more to offer than typical tourist sites. With graduation approaching rapidly for us, we easily pictured ourselves working at the companies that we visited. Not even the bleak cold weather of Northern Europe could deter how impressed we were with everything this trip had to offer.
I love to travel and, to me, that love encompasses a deep understanding of people from different countries and backgrounds. I wanted more contact with a different environment, so when I graduated from high school, I decided to go to a university in the United States. I chose UMSL because they have a great business program. When I came to this strange place alone, I was afraid, because everything was different—different faces, different languages, and a different culture. I had to do everything by myself. The first lesson abroad I learned was how to face everything independently. With the help of UMSL's professors, advisors and classmates, I quickly adapted to the environment. Finally, I had a sense of belonging. UMSL gave me many opportunities to grow personally and professionally. Along with flourishing in my academic studies, I participate in several groups on campus that allow me to help others while improving my public speaking skills. These roles I have taken on have included: international student orientation leader, Chinese Students and Scholars Association public relations director, and director and emcee for various Chinese events on campus.

As I attended university abroad for four years, I also attended a school study program that took me beyond the classroom into other cultures. In the summer of 2015, I studied with a professor and my classmates as we went to China for two weeks. We explored Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou, and Suzhou, which are the five most influential cities in China. During this program, we not only went to the university campuses in China, but we also went to some well-known enterprises to learn and have discussions with the people in the companies. This trip gave me another perspective from which to understand China and showed me more about the best business schools in the world.

I believe that study abroad programs are unforgettable and mine has guided me in the way of life as it pertains to learning and education. I know from experience that studying abroad can offer someone an immense amount of knowledge. UMSL Business is global, and I really appreciate the opportunity that UMSL has provided to me.
Tammy Hawkins can’t help but smile whenever she gets the question. “You can never just settle, can you?” Her answer — stated or not — is always the same emphatic no. Her desire to constantly tackle new challenges was evident when pursuing each of her three business degrees from the University of Missouri–St. Louis and remains in her current role as a vice president of software engineering at Mastercard. “I like to say you have to get comfortable with being uncomfortable,” Hawkins said. “Everything in the technology industry changes constantly. If you sit stagnant and you get too comfortable with not changing, the world is going to pass you by. You can become irrelevant in IT very quickly.” Hawkins’ most recent challenge brought her to Dublin, where she manages Mastercard teams that develop software for the commercial solution, In Control. Her teams are based in Malaysia, Brazil, the U.S. and Ireland, which provides both personal and professional benefits.
“I feel like to truly be a player in this global, technical world you need to have some real global insights,” she said. “I’ve been in Ireland a year now and really enjoy what I’ve learned about myself and what I’ve learned about the European culture. I really feel like it’s made me a better person.”

Having never lived outside of St. Louis until the international move, Hawkins admits the transition was difficult during the first few weeks. She could no longer rely on muscle memory to navigate what were previously simple tasks such as setting up a bank account or hopping in her car to run an errand.

“I’m learning what it’s like to be an immigrant,” Hawkins said. “I’ll be quite honest, in technology, I took that for granted. I’ve managed people who have emigrated from other countries for many years. I feel like I didn’t truly appreciate the hardships that you go through when moving. I moved by myself, but I can only imagine the increase in stress if you are also moving your children and your family. I think it’s made me a more considerate person.”

Even establishing professional relationships was difficult initially.

“There are only a couple of people at my level in the office, and in this culture, there is very much a respect toward hierarchy,” Hawkins said. “I’ve learned that I’m an effervescent American. We’re very outgoing with our emotions, especially with happiness. I’m always smiling and laughing out loud in the office. It’s just different than European office culture in which people are often more reserved. There was a bit of a warm-up period before my Irish co-workers felt comfortable reaching out to me.”

Through these lessons, she’s been able to approach her management style with a balance of cultural learning, allowing for personal growth, and cultural training to help her team advance within the global organization.

“We are still run by a company with an American headquarters, so while respecting the European culture, I’m also trying to teach my European teams that there are aspects of American culture that you also need to consider to rise up in your career globally,” Hawkins said. “Because some key decision makers are not seeing what they do every day, we have to – especially in a global perspective – almost over-communicate what we’re doing to a respectable level. It’s striking a balance between showcasing your work and being humble.”

Hawkins is adapting well after a year, but she’s careful not to get too comfortable. For future career challenges, she’s interested in a variety of assignments such as leading an acquisition, running a regional office in a Spanish-speaking country and advising U.S. company leaders on the experience of working in an international tech hub. While these options could take her just about anywhere, Hawkins has one clear end goal in mind.

“I want to make it to the executive level,” she said. “I’ve expressed that, and I’m working toward that at Mastercard. They provide amazing training and on-the-job opportunities for employees to work toward their career goals.”

She has several key accomplishments on her resume to help get her there, including leading an innovative proof of concept in 2015 for Mastercard Identity Check, a biometric payment authentication technology application.

Hawkins’ team, in conjunction with the U.S. government as part of President Barack Obama’s cybersecurity initiative, ran the successful pilot of the app, which uses biometrics like fingerprints or facial recognition to verify a cardholder’s identity. The project was the first of its kind in the industry and was recognized with internal and external awards.

Although she previously approached team assignments with hesitation, Hawkins said the several she completed at UMSL during her BSBA, MBA and Master of Science in Information System programs helped prepare her for the high-level tasks she would encounter later.

“When I was in college, I dreaded group projects,” Hawkins admitted. “I thought they were the worst. Then I got into the real world and realized everything in life is a group project. It’s funny to look back on it now, but it’s really true. I think that was good preparation for me. I learned managerial skills of how to balance different personalities and keep harmony amongst everyone while still allowing people to be innovative and provide challenging ideas.”

As a UMSL student, Hawkins also cultivated meaningful relationships and technical skills.

“I definitely appreciate a lot of the teachers,” Hawkins said. “They really broke down the hardware side of things from a technology perspective as well as from a business perspective. I’ve used so many skills that I’ve learned at UMSL in the real world.
In summer 2017, Professor Christoph Schiessl lead his first group of students to Germany in order to study the nation’s history from the time period of World War II to the Cold War. This was the first time the Pierre Laclede Honors College course had been taught overseas and it was a great success. In two weeks, the group of students explored four key cities: Berlin, Dresden, Nuremberg and Munich.

The class traveled for the first four days around Berlin. Here, there are many museums outlining 20th century economics and the movement of the Industrial Era. Berlin remembers its grim history by keeping old aspects, such as parts of the Berlin Wall. Although the history of the Berlin Wall is not romantic or glamorous in any manner, the Berlin government leaves the remains of this wall to remind citizens of the city’s past and to allow all to learn from these cruel times. The memorial helps many visitors understand Germany’s past.

The Topography of Terror museum outlined government facilities in the area used for Hitler-era politics. In addition, the complex leads visitors outside to remains of the Berlin Wall; here, the museum explains the political and economic facts that drove East Berlin to erect a wall in order to keep its residents in. The site, like many others in the country, was designed to manipulate the senses of visitors in order to create a greater impact. The museum was entirely surrounded by rocks and concrete in order to emulate an open wound in the city.

Berlin also made efforts to highlight its non-violent past. In addition to the many war museums in the city, there was an entire area dedicated to religion and arts. While some of these exhibits mentioned the impact of the war in art, the main focus of this area was to remind viewers that Germany was also culturally enriched. An example of these establishments is the Berlin Cathedral which demonstrated the history and prominence of the Lutheran faith in Berlin for the past couple centuries. The museum makes brief mentions of the destruction caused by the war, but overall the exhibits were there to remind visitors of the martyrs and impact of the church throughout history.

The city of Dresden, however, focused more on the impact of the destruction on the city in their exhibits. The city faced major casualties during the bombings of the war and is rebuilding to this day. In contrast to Berlin, Dresden focused its efforts on rebuilding its city in a manner that reminded the citizens of life before the war and its communist occupation shortly after. The city was rebuilt in a Baroque style with artistic buildings and drew visitors in flocks to admire the beauty in its exhibits. Some examples of this are the Zwinger Palace, Frauenkirche, and the Semperoper; all of which provide a thorough exhibition on the culture and monarchy of the region. It was really easy to forget that Dresden had ever been a part of the Second World War.

Nuremberg was an odd sight to see due to the stark contrast in the center of the city. One side was completely modernized with very plain buildings. The other appeared to preserve the historic aesthetic that the city was known for. The Documentation Center provided an in-depth look into the logistics of the Holocaust. One can see the effort that the architect took to immerse visitors and sway their emotions. It was impossible to miss the impact of these exhibitions, and a thorough way of presenting Germany’s past for all to see.

Overall, this trip showed me the history, challenges and beauty of Germany.
UMSL information systems students’ adventures abroad
By Maurice Dawson, assistant professor of information systems

The Information Systems Department has been completing USAID assignments, Fulbright Scholar Grants, teaching assignments and fellowships in Asia, Africa and North America. There have been faculty affiliated with U.K., Russian, Chinese, Kenyan, Dominican and Puerto Rican institutions of higher learning. This has allowed for the internationalization of faculty and research which ultimately influences the instruction for the students. The students receive a truly global perspective on how topics from IS global sourcing to cyber security occur in different regions. The international view of this field allows them to foresee upcoming trends and opportunities in the area. The students themselves have received awards in multiple African countries enabling them to not only gain new experiences but to provide volunteer services that impact the lives of many.

Top: Damon Walker in Conakry Guinea.
Left: Damon Walker and Omar Salih in Guinea.

International IT USAID assignments

Since June 2016, the UMSL IS Department has received an estimated $35,000 for providing voluntary technical assistance to farmers, farm groups and agribusinesses in developing countries to promote sustainable capacity building.

UMSL completed the majority of the awarded assignments with Winrock International, a recognized leader in the U.S. and international development with a focus on social, agricultural and environmental issues. Inspired by its namesake Winthrop Rockefeller, Winrock combines scientific and technical expertise with entrepreneurial innovation to deliver market-based solutions that improve lives around the world.

In June 2017, UMSL IS student Damon Walker completed an assignment to train the agriculture trainers and specialized technicians in information technology. Tasks included the familiarization of hardware and necessary software, document and file classification, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and using the Internet as a research tool. This assignment was carried out in Conakry, Guinea.

During the summer of 2017, UMSL IS student Ashley Moss worked with Emile Badiane Agricultural Technical School of Bignona in Bignona, Senegal. The assignment consisted of a 20-day journey to Senegal, West Africa to help and train the host to develop a website and a database for monitoring and tracking graduates. The high school and The Ziguinchor Horticulture Initiation Center staff and teachers attended Moss’s workshop on managing a website.

During July 2017, Omar Salih attended a project in Dabola, Guinea. The task was to train the trainers in computer information systems and information technology in agriculture schools.

From December 2017 to January 2018, Assistant Professor Dawson was in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia working with the Bousaa Gonofaa MFI. This was the first IT volunteer assignment with Catholic Relief Services, which is an NGO headquartered in Washington, D.C. that has been providing services to East Africa. Assignment job details were database migration, a five-year IT strategic plan and preparations for mobile banking.

All students received the President’s Volunteer Service Award which is used to recognize citizens with exceptional volunteer activities.

Top: Damon Walker in Conakry Guinea.
Left: Damon Walker and Omar Salih in Guinea.
University leadership and elected officials cut the ribbon outside Anheuser-Busch Hall, marking the official opening of the College of Business Administration’s new building.

For upperclassmen strolling through the newly christened classrooms of Anheuser-Busch Hall, a common sentiment echoes: “I wish I had a little more time.”

“To have a building like this that looks great, feels great and where people are going to be comfortable, it’s just a good thing all around,” senior marketing major Anthony Arellano said. “I graduate in December, and I wish I could be here a little bit longer to experience this even more.”

Arellano was among the first to tour the University of Missouri–St. Louis’ new home for the College of Business Administration during the grand opening ceremony on Thursday.

After 13 years of fundraising for the $20 million facility, Anheuser-Busch Hall will consolidate the college’s operations and support modern pedagogical methods, technologies and business models. An innovative concept from CannonDesign, the three-story building, which is located along West Drive on North Campus, serves as UMSL’s first space solely dedicated to business education.

“The completion of this building achieves a longstanding vision for a more unified College of Business Administration,” said Charles Hoffman, dean of the college. “The design encourages additional interaction among world-class faculty across a variety of disciplines and extends our commitment to developing a more diverse and competitive workforce.”

Within the 51,293-square-foot facility built by ICS Construction Services are six classrooms, two seminar rooms, three conference rooms and 32 faculty offices.

UM System President Mun Choi said Anheuser-Busch Hall will further the university’s mission to advance the welfare of students and benefit the global society.

“This is where innovative teaching will occur so that we have financiers, accountants and marketing specialists that are going to go out and continue the economic development of St. Louis and the state,” Choi said. “This is where outstanding faculty members will pursue research that will be presented at national and international conferences. This is also where our faculty and students will translate research and teaching for the benefit of the citizens of Missouri.”

Distinctive features of the building include:
– the Executive Education Room, a two-story space with adjoining kitchen, floor-to-ceiling windows and nine 60-inch display monitors
– the Dave Ganz Room, a tiered classroom funded by $1 million in donations from former students
– the Trading Room, which features a curved glass wall, 12 Bloomberg terminals and a real-time financial stock ticker.

Anheuser-Busch Hall, which opened for classes on Monday, is also on track to receive LEED Gold environmental sustainability certification, highlighting UMSL’s latest effort to be an active participant in the green building movement.

In addition to a $2.5 million lead gift from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation, 724 other private and corporate donors contributed to the building. The state of Missouri matched those donations by releasing $10 million in state funding.

Bill Bradley, vice president of community affairs for Anheuser-Busch, said the company currently employs about 90 UMSL alumni and was pleased to give back to the university.

“Anheuser-Busch Hall brings a sense of pride to those alumni and our entire company as we recognize the educational and career opportunities it will bring to UMSL’s students,” Bradley said. “We know that many future leaders at Anheuser-Busch and in the St. Louis business community will walk through these very doors.”

As the last in a round of new buildings to open on campus, Anheuser-Busch Hall serves as a grand finale to the latest campus growth. Since 2015, UMSL has opened the Recreation and Wellness Center, Science Learning Building and Patient Care Center.

“This is a joyous day for not only the College of Business Administration but for the University of Missouri–St. Louis, the University of Missouri System as a whole, St. Louis and the state,” Chancellor Tom George said during the ribbon cutting ceremony. “This is just the kind of thing we need here to boost our economy and boost everything else associated with higher education.”
The International Business Career Conference is a premier opportunity for inquisitive students who want to test the waters of their potential career paths. What could you do with a degree in international business? IBCC answers this question every year by giving a platform for interaction between students and business professionals from different regions and business backgrounds. This year’s 10th annual International Business Career Conference, “Now and the Future,” has been a great experience for all participants.

IBCC is organized by students for students. It is overseen by Professor Emily Lane, with the help of Professor Elizabeth Vining and the International Business Institute. The conference opened its doors to enthusiastic students and professionals at 8:00 a.m. on March 2, 2018. This year, the conference featured student groups tabling and recruiting for their organizations. This additional networking opportunity allowed students to get involved in the many business-based organizations offered at UMSL.

The program started by introducing Joseph Rottman, director of the International Business Institute and chair of the Department of Global Leadership and Management. He welcomed the numerous participants from 21 different schools across the country and introduced keynote speaker John Clark. Mr. Clark discussed his experience both as a former student and current president and CEO of Masterclock, Inc. His speech on the opportunity that lies ahead was motivating for both students and professionals.

Following Mr. Clark was the executive panel. The panel included moderator Tim Nowak, executive director from World Trade Center St. Louis; Nancy Hopp, president of Alaris Litigation Services; Shaker Sadasivam, public company CEO, entrepreneur and technologist; Steve Hamilton, vice chairman and CEO of CSI Leasing; and Mike Kelley, vice president of international business and development at Metal Exchange Corporation. The panel discussed their personal encounters in the international field and what students need to know to foster their own success. After the discussion, the students were encouraged to ask questions.

After this educational session, the audience split up for several engaging workshops. Each workshop was divided into two sessions so students had the chance to listen to two of the five speakers. The workshops covered different topics of international business such as the future of cybersecurity, careers in diplomatic service, building a strong international social media network, and working for an international company based in the United States. One workshop also featured an UMSL alumni panel. In addition to the workshops that ran parallel, the conference offered a networking opportunity for students and professionals. This portion of the conference provided a superb and informal networking environment that allowed students an opportunity to engage with more than 30 companies from a variety of industries.
My UMSL story with the International Business Institute started in 2013. At the time, I was working as a pharmacist, but it just wasn’t cutting it for me. Many people thought I was crazy. I had a prestigious job, was making great money and would never have trouble finding a job. The problem was the lack of fulfillment my career choice gave me. I was not helping people the way I thought I would. I knew I had to make a change in my career, but I did not know exactly what I wanted to do.

Back then, I felt the best option was to go back to school and get my MBA with an international business focus. Not only could I use my MBA with my healthcare background, I would also have the flexibility to work with other industries all around the world. After looking at different universities in the St. Louis area, I knew the MBA program at UMSL was the best place for me. Not only is it an AACSB accredited college, UMSL also has a top-ranked International Business program.

As a student at UMSL, I was able to get top-notch education while learning more about myself. The classroom interactions taught me how to be more sympathetic to others and to better understand the perspectives of others. Through the International Business Institute, I also participated in a variety of extra-curricular programs that taught me more about myself. I helped manage the International Business Career Conference in 2014, 2015 and 2016. My involvement with the conferences helped me realize how much I enjoyed using my creativity skills and networking with others. I participated in study abroad programs in China and Germany where I formed lifelong friendships from around the world and had life-altering experiences. As graduation approached, I knew where I wanted to spend my career helping people: right here on UMSL’s campus. I recognized the difference I could make in students’ lives, because I experienced it as a student myself.

At the end of my MBA program, the newly formed UMSL Accelerate program grabbed my attention. Dan Lauer, an UMSL alumnus and successful entrepreneur, started an interdisciplinary and innovative entrepreneurship at his alma mater. He had a new approach of teaching the process of entrepreneurship to students who planned to start their own businesses or work for big corporations. His approach would teach any type of student about design thinking, the ability to problem solve, enhance their creativity skills, and how to think outside the box. Anyone could see the potential this program will have on the community and what an impact it will make in students’ lives. When I graduated, I saw a job opening with UMSL Accelerate. I thought why not apply and if I get the job, give it a try. A month after applying, I was offered a position as assistant director of UMSL Accelerate.

My decision to work for UMSL Accelerate was the best career decision I have ever made. The qualities of the job I have now cannot even compare with my past profession. I am building a program from the ground up. I am always using my creative side, actually look forward to coming into work every day, finally get to experience a healthy work life balance, work with a group of people that have the same work ethic and desire to give back to UMSL as much as I do, meet and network with people who are making such a positive impact in the world, and I get to help students realize the impact they can make in the future.
In July, 15 graduate students from the Gulf University of Science and Technology participated in an intense, 10-day graduate seminar. The seminar, “Global Leadership and Entrepreneurship,” helped the Kuwaiti graduate MBA students better understand Western leadership skills and styles as well as the entrepreneurship trends in the U.S. The nine faculty members who taught the seminar included global leadership and management faculty (Arya, Ofem and Zegarro-Ballon), UMSL-Accelerate faculty (Lauer and Miller), and GLAM Advisory Board members (Burrows, Costello and Sjogren). Dean Charlie Hoffman also shared his expertise with the students.

Coursework covered strategic management and leadership, global entrepreneurship and branding. The social portion of the seminar included a welcome dinner, a visit to UMSL’s entrepreneurship center in the Cambridge Innovation Center in the Cortex district and a tour of the Anheuser-Busch brewery.

Majoring in international business wasn’t even on Annie Mbale’s radar when she was looking to transfer colleges. But then she started reading about the University of Missouri–St. Louis and discovered her career purpose.

“I was initially interested in international relations and never really thought about international business at all,” the Malawi native said. “Then I started looking at UMSL and reading about international business. I thought, ‘This is exactly what I want to do, so I’m going to study that.’” Mbale, who is pursuing an MBA after receiving her bachelor’s degree in May, is not alone in noticing the benefits of the International Business program housed within UMSL’s College of Business Administration.

This year, the program received a No. 24 ranking from U.S. News & World Report, marking its 15th consecutive year in the top 25.

“The International Business program has become our flagship product,” said Charlie Hoffman, dean of the college. “All business is global now, so we strengthened our entire curriculum to reflect that. The program has a halo effect on the entire college.”

Joe Rottman, program director and chair of UMSL’s Global Leadership and Management Department, said the 15-year streak recognizes the quality, relevancy and strength of the program. “Fifteen years is an incredible milestone,” Rottman said. “Our brand intensifies with each passing year through our innovative programs, world-class faculty and exceptional students.”

In addition to campus courses, UMSL’s international programs include:

– more than 70 study abroad programs available in more than 40 countries
– annual study tours that lead student groups to locales around the world
– American student internships at overseas companies
– and foreign student internships at St. Louis-area businesses.

While the program’s long-term success isn’t the sole reason Mbale chose UMSL for her undergraduate studies, it was a large factor in her decision to pursue an MBA.

“I feel like if UMSL wasn’t a top program, I wouldn’t have come back for my master’s,” Mbale said. “That made my decision so easy because I’m going to one of the best schools.” In addition to quality faculty and instruction, Mbale says leadership opportunities with the International Business Career Conference and International Business Honor Society also enhanced her education.

“My experience at UMSL has been amazing,” she said. “My first semester was just taking classes and having fun, but then I decided to enroll in the International Business Career Conference, which I loved. I think it’s one of the best things I’ve ever done at UMSL. It is student run and exposed me to several things I never thought about.”
The International Business Honor Society at the University of Missouri–St. Louis is an organization catering to juniors and seniors who are majoring in international business. IBHS members uphold high academic standards with a minimum GPA of 3.2. The goal of the organization is to prepare students to meet and network with professional businesses, attend useful workshops that help benefit their specific field, and give back to the international business community. This is all done while having fun, meeting new people and learning new skills.

IBHS sponsors both the annual International Business Career Conference and the annual International Business Case Competition. The career conference is a networking opportunity designed for students to meet executives from the St. Louis area who have international experience. The IB Case Competition is hosted by UMSL in collaboration with the Consortium of Undergraduate International Business Education (CUIBE). Teams from twelve universities compete to solve a real world business problem for a global company.

The officers in charge of this year’s IBHS operations are also taking the International Business Career Conference yearlong seminar class. This has given IBHS the opportunity to be more involved in the planning of the conference than it has in the past. This has also been beneficial for the planning of this year’s IBHS events.

As IBHS prepares for their many exciting events this semester, its members are excited to showcase their hard work ethic and excitement for their career path.
MICHAEL J. COSTELLO
Associate Teaching Professor
Department of Finance and Legal Studies
Member Board of Directors of Schaeffer Manufacturing and Masterclock;
Organized and led study abroad course to Benelux with visits to businesses and governmental institutions, such as Emerson, Deloitte division of Monsanto, Sonaca and EU, ICCJ, ICI, SHAPE, US Consulate and Embassy; Organizing to lead a summer pre-law Honors College study abroad to Oxford.

HUNG-GAY FUNG
Dr. Y.S. Tsang Professor in Chinese Studies
Curator’s Professor of Finance
Department of Finance and Legal Studies

GERALD GAO
Professor, Department of Marketing

MARY LACY
Curators’ Distinguished Professor
Department of Information Systems
Visiting scholar at MIT in 2017, leading a research project on enterprise blockchains
Books
Journal articles

JANET MURRAY
E. Desmond Lee Professor for Developing Women Leaders and Entrepreneurs in International Business
Professor, Department of Marketing

EKN PELLEGRINI
Associate Professor of Management
Department of Information Systems
Curators’ Distinguished Professor
Global Leadership and Management

JOSEPH ROTTMAN
Professor, Department of Information Systems
Chair, Global Leadership and Management
Director, International Business Institute
“Engaged Scholarship,” Modern College of Business and Science, Muscat, Oman 121/7
“Project and Team-Based Service Learning,” Modern College of Business and Science, Muscat, Oman 121/7
“Increasing student engagement through student activities,” Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education, St. Louis Mo, 10/17.

L. DOUGLAS SMITH
Professor of Management
School of Management

ELIZABETH W. VINING
Teaching Professor, Department of Marketing
Received a $3,000 grant to participate in the Faculty Development International Business program in Brussels, Belgium. This prestigious program coordinates the efforts of faculty in international business programs worldwide to improve instruction.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BINDU ARYA
Associate Professor
Department of Global Leadership and Management


JAMES CAMPBELL
Professor and Chair
Department of Supply Chain and Analytics


“Strategic Design for Delivery with Linked Transportation Assets: Trucks and Drones,” with D.C. Sweeney II, J. Zhang, and D. Pan, Final Report, Institute for Transportation, Iowa State University, December 2017


MAURICE E. DAWSON JR.
Assistant Professor
Department of Information Systems

Conference chair of the 13th Annual Midwest United States Association for Information Systems (AIS), and organizing committee member for the 9th International Symposium on Cybersecurity.

Received $19,980 for Fulbright Scholar Specialist Project ID: FSP-P000654 for cybersecurity education. The host institution was Prince Sultan University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Published a referred paper titled “How the Modification of Personality Traits Leave One Vulnerable to Manipulation in Social Engineering” in the International Journal of Information Privacy, Security and Integrity published by Inderscience.

Published a referred paper titled “Developing Learning Objects for Engineering and Science Fields: Using Technology to Test System Usability and Interface Design” in the International Journal of Smart Technology and Learning published by Inderscience.

Received approximately $4,000 for a volunteer ICT assignment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia through the USAID Farmers to Farmers program. Students received over $12,000 for their assignments in Guinea and Senegal during summer 2017. All students will be awarded the Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

THOMAS EYSSELL
Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Finance and Legal Studies


FRANK Q. FU
Associate Professor, Department of Marketing


BRANDON OFEM
Assistant Professor
Department of Global Leadership and Management


Grant
“A research study of teacher retention and network formation in Noyce communities of practice.” National Science Foundation: Division of Undergraduate Education. $1,026,372. (Co-PI, April 2017 to March 2020).

SEEMANTINI PATHAK
Assistant Professor
Department of Global Leadership and Management


2017 Conference Acceptance
Evans, K., Vera, D., & Pathak, S. 2017. “Directors’ professional devaluation: The effects of stigma of incompetence and stigma by association.” Accepted for presentation at the Strategic Management Society Special Conference, Milan, Italy.

CHIKAKO USUI
Associate Professor of Sociology


G. D’ANNE WEISE
Associate Professor, Department of Finance


“Inverse VIX Futures ETNs: Caveat Emptor,” with Hancock, G.D. (Fall 2013). Journal of Index Investing.

“Hedging with VIX Futures: What is the Optimal Hedge Ratio?” with Hancock, G.D. (Fall 2013).

Review of Futures Markets.

GAIYAN ZHANG
Professor and Chair, Department of Finance

“Lock-In Effects in Relationship Lending: Evidence from DIP Loans”, with Gabriel Ramirez and Iftikhar Hasan, conditionally accepted at Journal, Money, Credit and Banking.

Awards
“The Impact of Informed CDS Trading on Related Equity,” with Hung-gyu Fung and Min-Ming Wen. Best Paper Award, the 2017 Financial Management Association (FMA), semifinalist.
UMSL's international programs offer more than 70 study abroad opportunities in more than 40 countries. In this photo, Thomas Eyssell (center), professor, associate dean and director of Graduate Studies, poses with Professional MBA students, faculty and staff in Rome.