



College of Business Administration University of Missouri-St. Louis



Our First *IMBA* Interns Get Rave Reviews

Two years ago, UM-St. Louis College of Business Administration launched the International Master of Business Administration (IMBA) program. Partnerships were created with several international universities giving students enrolled in the two-year program the opportunity to spend two semesters studying in their home countries and then two semesters at UM-St. Louis. During the 2006-2007 academic year, 25 students

from China and France attended UM-St. Louis as members of the first graduating class.

What makes this program unique is that one of the major components of the IMBA program is its requirement that all participants complete an international internship in order to gain practical experience that becomes an integral part of their international business training. These students participated in summer internships with several St. Louis companies including A.O. Smith, Anheuser-Busch, Emerson

Motors, Express Scripts, GMAC, Intulogy, Mediomics, NNR Global Logistics, Peabody Coal, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Scottrade, Sigma Aldrich, Silgan, Solutia, Sunset

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Dr. Allan Bird,
*Eiichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai
Professor of Japanese Studies,
Director, International
Business Programs, University
of Missouri-St. Louis*



photo above: Université Robert Schuman in Strasbourg, France
below: Nanjing University, China

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Transportation, Unigroup, Watlow and Women Inc. Many of these students are continuing to work for these companies into the fall semester and/or will then work for them as employees in their home countries when they return. It was a very successful venture from both the perspective of the students and the organizations. All the companies are interested in continuing the program into future years, which will benefit the 20 new students here this year from China, France and Austria, and students in subsequent years from even more countries. As Marc Palmer, Director of Marketing for Emerson Motor Company, indicated, "This program has provided us with a student who was able to make an impact on our organization here in the U.S. and on our organization in China."

"Our IMBA program prepares future leaders of international enterprises with a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the intricacies of the international market. Due to the integrative nature of our IMBA program, students gain theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience that helps them develop critical capabilities in succeeding in the international environment, above and beyond what is found in a traditional MBA program"



Janet Y. Murray,
E. Desmond Lee Professor
for Developing Women
Leaders and Entrepreneurs
in International Business



Kurtis Kaspar (left) with AIESEC friends in Bangkok

AIESEC at UMSL

This year AIESEC UMSL has sent seven students abroad on exchanges. Students have worked in Thailand, Siberia, Poland, the Netherlands, and Mexico. These experiences provided the opportunity for the members to positively impact how their respective companies operated. The positions varied and required skills such as database management, administration, accounting, and finance. These are real learning opportunities where the students are given the chance to prove themselves while working in a new and unfamiliar environment.



While working in a different culture can be very rewarding, finding and meeting new friends there can be very difficult. All of our members had the opportunity to interact with local members of AIESEC. In this way AIESEC provides a readymade network of friends that share similar interests. These local AIESECers provided our members with the chance to see the various sights and activities of their respective cultures. Whether it was visiting a temple, experiencing big city life, traveling the country side, or just going to the local club, our members got to see what the culture was really like.

Brian Schuler in front of a church in St. Petersburg



Thank You Reception:

To celebrate the 1st year International MBA (IMBA) internship program, the graduate business office in co-operation with the international business institute held a "Thank You" reception on September 19th, 2007 at the UMSL Alumni House to recognize the organizations and individuals that made the 1st year of the IMBA internship program such an outstanding success.

The attendees were a mixture of corporate representatives, faculty members, and enrolled and graduating IMBA students. Corporate participants included, Anheuser Busch, Express Scripts, Intulogy, and Unigroup World Wide, NNR USA, Emerson Electric, WATLOW, and Silgan Plastics. "Everyone I spoke with was very enthusiastic about the quality of our interns and the their experience with them" said Betty Vining, senior lecturer in marketing.

The "Thank You" reception proved to be a great opportunity for the students to meet with the corporate representatives in a somewhat informal setting and discuss past and future internships. It also provided the corporate representatives a chance to meet with each other and share their experiences with and interest in the IMBA program at UM- St. Louis. "Every student I talked with was really pleased with the event and the opportunities it presented" said Carol Chickey, one of the event's organizers.



top photo: Daqing and Dr. Elkin Pellegrini, assistant professor of management.

from left to right: Dr. Hung-Gay Fung, LIAO Yan, Dr. Tom Eysnell, associate LU Ling, JIN Chen, Dr. Pellegrini, SHEN Daqing, and TAO Zhan

bottom: Yueping Wang, Nic Ayling (Silgan Plastics), Chunfang Zhou

Park's College: Our newest partner in the IMBA program

Let us introduce to you our new partner university in India - **Park's College!** We are excited that the IMBA program has a new and strong partner in Tirupur, India that will enrich our program tremendously. Park's College is known for its professionalism in their academic activities which produce professionals of world standards to face the future competition. The faculty members at Park's College have earned their established reputation with remarkably active academic, research, work and administrative experience. UMSL's own Mahesh N. Shankarmahesh is spending the months of September and October teaching a course entitled "Global business environment" for Park's graduate business students and is collecting data for a couple of research projects. When Dr. Shankarmahesh returns to UMSL in early November, he will return with a list of potential IMBA students after interviewing them in India. These students numbering around four to eight are expected to join UMSL in the fall of 2008.

Park's College in Tirupur was established in the year 1993 and now boasts 15,000 students. Tirupur is located in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu about 50 km east of Coimbatore and about 500 km southwest of Chennai which is the capital of the region.

Thanks to its extensive range of factories, which export all types of knit fabrics and supply garments, Tirupur is one of the fastest developing cities in the state.

It is very interesting to know that well-known American retailers such as Diesel, Reebok, Wal-Mart, FILA and Tommy Hilfiger import textiles and clothing from factories into Tirupur.

We warmly welcome our new partner university into our program and hope that by next fall semester students from India are enriching our courses here at UMSL, and that American students take the excellent chance to study and work abroad in India.



New Partnership





China Study Trip

May 22nd 2007 – June 3rd 2007

In May 2007, Dr. Hung-Gay Fung led a group of eight students to China for a two-week study tour. Their mission: learn as much as they could about one of the fastest growing economies in the world and the fascinating country and culture that support it. The Asian experience started in the capitol of China - Beijing - where the group had the chance to visit not only such famous sights as the Summer Palace, the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, but were also granted visits to the Chinese Bank and the Chinese Academy of Social Science where lectures enriched their visit. At the city of Nanjing, where UMSL's established partner university is located, the group spent another five days exploring some of the regions most well known companies such as Nanjing Phoenix Contact & Co., Ltd., A.O. Smith Company, and YCP-BASF Company. To round out the tour the group visited the Presidential Palace, the Confucius Temple, and the splendid Old City of Nanjing.

To learn more about typical Chinese ancient buildings and commercial settings with shops and restaurants that are over 100 years of age, the group spent two additional days in Guangzhou at the beautiful Pearl River Delta. As the trip went from north to south, the two last stops of the study tour were Shenzhen and Hong Kong, two cities that actually share the Chinese border. As Shenzhen is one of the fastest

growing cities in China the group visited a joint venture business of local and foreign capital and took an interesting tour through the largest painting factory in Southern China.

At Hong Kong they had another day of fun at the breathtaking Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre as well as one of the most famous Chinese temples. Everyone enjoyed the two weeks in China and learned that cultural experiences enrich and enlighten ones personal and professional life.

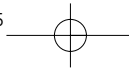
"It was surreal visiting all the places I had heard about as a child. I learned more about economics and history in two weeks than I could have in an entire semester. I know that the people I traveled with will be my friends forever."

— Jason Bockman



Our mission: To learn as much as we could about one of the fastest growing economies in the world.





The 2007 Thomas Jefferson Award Winner



Dr. Michael Harris, a fellow in the IBI, is the 2007 winner of the Thomas Jefferson Award. Dr. Harris is only the second business scholar to be granted this prestigious award, which is given every other year to a faculty member from one of the four University of Missouri campuses. The award is based on the "personal influence and performance of duty in teaching, writing and scholarship, character and influence devotion and loyalty to the University

(that) best exemplifies the principles and ideals of Thomas Jefferson." In relating this award to his current activities, Dr. Harris noted that those ideals include the belief that society and government should be tolerant of differences, the application of knowledge to the solution of public problems, and an emphasis on free expression of ideas, principles that are important in understanding international and cross-cultural contexts.

Growing up in two cultures, the American culture, and the Orthodox Jewish culture of his family, Dr. Harris never planned on studying and teaching international and cross-cultural issues. After 15 years of being a faculty member, however, Dr. Harris began to consider new areas for study. A week-long seminar for faculty on international human resource management (HRM) topics, and an opportunity to do research with a visiting new professor from Belgium, suggested that he consider international HRM more carefully. As his interests developed, Dr. Harris received invitations from universities in Europe to speak and share his research. "Meeting people from different cultures and sharing research ideas was a wonderful way to learn more about the world," Dr. Harris explained. "And opportunities have led to new friends and colleagues from various countries and cultures. What was particularly interesting to me in meeting new colleagues was exploring our differences as well as our commonalities."

Dr. Harris' most recent endeavor is an edited book on international HRM, due to appear in print in the next few weeks. "The exciting part was to read about new areas and explore new issues; international HRM generates ways of thinking that might not have been considered if one were just addressing domestic HRM issues." Employment law is one area where Dr. Harris finds major cross-cultural differences. "Here in the U.S., there is a great deal of focus on discrimination based on race, gender, age, disabilities, and religion, and other demographic factors. In other parts of the world, such as the European Union, privacy issues are of much greater concern than discrimination." In the near future, Dr. Harris plans to travel to Paris, France, where he will present his recent research on compensation satisfaction, at the ESSEC, one of France's premier schools of business.

Profile of an International Business Major:

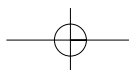
Gabriel Santos



Gabriel Santos arrived at UM-St. Louis two years ago from Brazil to double major in International Business and Marketing. While studying International Relations in Brazil he decided his education would benefit from an international experience. He has broad experience in international business, including several internships in world trading and working at the American Chamber of Commerce in Brazil. Here he primarily worked as an intern in the Customer Relations department, but later was its coordinator, and was therefore fortunate to attract a corporate sponsor for his studies abroad.

Since arriving at UM-St. Louis, Gabriel has gotten involved in various campus activities and organizations. He was a leading member of the Student Court and the Student Activities Budget Committee for a year. He is presently president of the International Student Organization, which represents all the international students on the UM-St. Louis campus. In addition, Gabriel has been very active with the International Business Club, holding positions of Secretary, Public Relations, SGA Representative and now President.

When not in school, Gabriel enjoys sports, especially extreme sports, and volunteering his time to help an orphanage with a cultural night twice a month. Upon graduating, he plans to either return to Brazil or work with his corporate sponsor in its European office.





Advisory Board Member Spotlight:

Ross Bushnell

Thanks to 18 months with the Harvard Negotiation Project at Harvard Law School and four years with a Cambridge-based consulting firm specializing in negotiation and dispute resolution, Ross Bushnell certainly understands the importance of valuing diversity, exploring mutual interests and creatively developing options to meet the needs of all parties.

After receiving an MBA from Harvard Business School, Mr. Bushnell joined Monsanto Company in 1994 and worked in a variety of roles including sales, marketing, human resource management, general management and public affairs, but acknowledges that his negotiation experience was of most value while on two international assignments in Australia. On his second stint in Melbourne, Mr. Bushnell served as Managing Director for Monsanto's Australia/New Zealand business and was a member of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Team reporting to Monsanto's regional headquarters in Singapore.

After 11 years with Monsanto, Mr. Bushnell joined Silgan Plastics, a \$650 million subsidiary of Silgan Holdings (SLGN), as Vice President and General Manager of the Closure System business before being promoted to Sr. Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Silgan Plastics' \$500 million U.S. business.



Mr. Bushnell has been a member of the UMSL International Business Advisory Board for over four years and has served as the IB Advancement Committee chair for the past three.



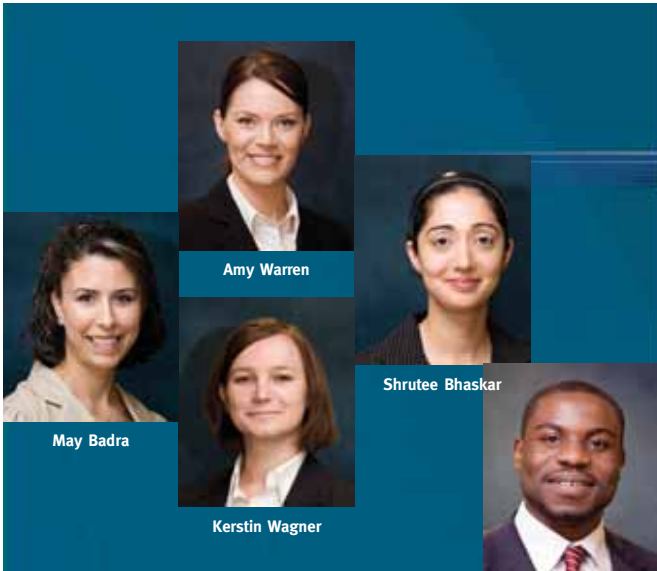
International Business Club

The International Business Club (IBC) is an extremely diverse and very active student organization at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. To date, the IBC has over 125 members many of whom come from countries around the world, including Brazil, Chile, Germany, Austria, France, India and China. The IBC is dedicated to enhancing students' education while helping students cultivate a global mindset by providing exciting activities and events that are focused on international business. Some of the organization's activities include professional speakers, field trips, monthly meetings, and social events. The IBC provides speakers from the international student body, faculty, and business professionals with international experience.

This year in late September, Bob Gunthner, a twenty year veteran of Anheuser-Busch, spoke at a campus event. Bob Gunthner was responsible for leading Anheuser-Busch into joint ventures with Grupo Modelo in Mexico and Antarctica in Brazil. Mr. Gunthner provided accounts of the different obstacles the company faced during their endeavors to a crowd of seventy people in the SGA Chamber.

Each semester 20 to 30 club members embark on a field trip to visit organizations involved in international commerce. Last semester the club toured the US Chamber of Commerce and the International Trade building in Washington, DC. This semester the IBC will go to Chicago to tour the Mercantile, CBOT, and CBOE exchanges. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month in Century Room C of MSC. All students regardless of major are welcome to join the International Business Club.





Amy Warren

May Badra

Kerstin Wagner

Shrutee Bhaskar

Oti Bamfo-Agyei

Meet the International Business Institute's Graduate Research Assistants

May Badra is a Palestinian American who was born in Dallas, TX and raised in Bethlehem, Palestine. May received her undergraduate degree from UMSL with a triple major in International Business, Marketing, and MOB, and a minor in Communications - Mass Media. She just started her second year in the MBA program with emphasis in Marketing and is expected to graduate in May 2008. She is this year's recipient of the Des Lee scholarship.

Amy Warren is a second year IMBA student at UMSL who recently completed her first year of studies at Kyoto Sangyo University in Kyoto, Japan and will graduate in May 2008. Amy received her undergraduate degree from UMSL with a double major in International Business and Marketing and completed a one-year study abroad program and internship in Tokyo, Japan. She is this year's recipient of the Des Lee scholarship.

Kerstin Wagner is an Austrian IMBA student who was raised in Vienna, but has spent several years abroad in Spain, USA and Hong Kong. Kerstin received her Magister degree from the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration majoring in International Marketing & Management as well as Information Systems. Kerstin will earn her IMBA from UMSL in December 2008 after two semesters in St. Louis and a rewarding internship complementing her eight years of work experience in the telecommunication industry.

Shrutee Bhaskar is an international student from India. She is currently a second year graduate student, pursuing her MBA degree in Finance. Shrutee earned her bachelors in Accounting and Finance from Delhi University. She has been living in St. Louis since August 2005.

Oti Bamfo-Agyei is a Ghanaian who has lived most of his life in Botswana and Swaziland. He is currently pursuing an MBA at UMSL with an emphasis in Accounting. He received his BA in Economics from the University of Botswana. He has been working as the liaison for the Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education (CUIBE) for the past year.



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IBNews

The *U.S. News and World Report* ranked
UM-St. Louis 13th as America's
Best Colleges of 2008.
UM-St. Louis
Undergraduate
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Program has been ranked
in the TOP 20 for five
consecutive years in a row.



<http://ib.ums1.edu/>

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