

February 2005—Volume 3, No. 1

Fall 2004 Case Competition Winners

The University of Houston - Victoria School of Business Administration is pleased to announce the winning teams from the Fall 2004 MBA Case Competition held on Saturday, December 4, 2004 at the Houston Hilton Southwest in Houston, Texas.

The first place team included Shane Degeyter, Lisa Guidry, Mario Heredia, and Jie Huang (Team 6). The second place team included Lisa Kinsey, Glen Ruppert, Scott Shobe, and Tracy Whitt (Team 13), and the third place team included Pamela Gubbels, Frances Koch, and Yara Quintero (Team 21).

Team rankings were based on a combination of the presentation scores and written case evaluations. This semester's winning groups were recognized at a reception following commencement on Saturday, January 8, 2005. Participants in the top three groups will be welcomed back to the Spring 2005 MBA Conference as panelists.

The MBA Conference, which was held for the first time in December 2003, is the culmination of the MBA program. Students enrolled in Seminar in Strategic Management, the capstone course of the program, attend the event, which includes a luncheon in their honor. Central to the MBA Conference is the case competition, which provides MBA students with the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the MBA program to real-world business situations.

Teams participating in the competition this fall prepared original business case analyses on the company SYSCO, which is engaged in the distribution of food and related products and services to restaurants, nursing homes, hospitals, hotels, motels, schools, colleges, cruise ships, sports parks and summer camps - wherever a meal is prepared away from home.

The teams are evaluated on several criteria, including organization, subject knowledge, quality and use of visual aids, audience interaction, elocution, and teamwork. Because such a large proportion of UHV's MBA enrollment is now online, students often work in virtual teams, and the MBA Conference represents their first opportunity to meet their classmates. Participants report that the case preparation and presentation experience and the chance to interact with faculty and fellow students make this event worthwhile. Many UHV School of Business Administration faculty and several MBA alumni served as panelists for the case competition.

The Spring 2005 Case Conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2005; the location will be announced soon. Participants will prepare a case analysis on Mills Corporation, which develops and manages malls such as Katy Mills. For additional information about the upcoming conference, please visit the SoBA website at: www.uhv.edu/bus/new/students/mbacasecomp.asp.

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GMAT Information Session

The UHV School of Business Administration has scheduled GMAT Information Sessions for the following dates:

UHV
April 7, 2005 from 5-6:30pm (Room TBA)

UHSCR
June 16, 2005 from 5-6:30pm (Room 123)

UHSSL
March 10, 2005 from 5-6:30pm
July 14, 2005 from 5-6:30pm (Room 106)

Students who are planning to take the GMAT should attend one of these sessions to learn more about the format of the exam, options for preparing for the exam, and ways to control test anxiety.

For more information, please contact Holly Verhasselt, Student Access and Diversity Coordinator, at (281) 275-3376 or by email at verhasselth@uhv.edu.

GMAT Information Sessions:

March 10; April 7; June 16; July 14

GMAT Testing Centers

Students who were admitted to the MBA program as a temporary graduate student are required to take the GMAT before they register for a second semester in the program. For most Houston-area students, the nearest testing center is located at:

Prometric Testing Center
7111 Harwin
Houston, Texas 77036
(832) 242-2302

Students in and around Victoria should contact:

Prometric Testing Center
5810 South Staples Street
Country Village Shopping Center
Corpus Christi, Texas 78413
(361) 993-7181

Students in all other locations may find the nearest testing center by visiting www.mba.com.

Students should schedule an appointment to take the GMAT at least 6-8 weeks in advance. Seats at many of the testing centers have been filling up quickly, so it is very important that you schedule your appointment ahead of time so that you don't risk sitting out of the MBA program for a semester.

The cost to take the GMAT is currently \$225. As a study tool, we recommend the Kaplan Study Guide with the CD Rom, which can be purchased at any bookstore for approximately \$40.

For more information regarding the GMAT, please contact a SoBA advisor by sending an email to busadvisor@uhv.edu.

Buying Textbooks

Required textbook information is available on the School of Business website each semester. Students have the following institutional options for obtaining textbooks.

- The Victoria College Bookstore carries titles for all of our courses and will accept phone orders for shipped textbooks. The Victoria College Bookstore can be reached by phone at (361) 572-6430 or online at www.victoriacollege.edu/dept/bstore.
- A seasonal bookstore will be open at the University of Houston System at Sugar Land approximately one week before each semester and remain open during the first part of the semester. The seasonal bookstore is located in the third modular building in the UHSSL parking lot on the southwest side of the building.

Students are also free to use the publication information we provide to obtain textbooks from their favorite online vendors. However, before doing so you should find out what your vendor's anticipated shipping time is, and what their return policy is. Also, you should not write in or remove shrink wrap from any textbook until the first class day in the event that:

- the vendor supplies you with the wrong edition of your text,
- the course instructor is forced to make a late change to the required textbooks,
- you are forced to make a last-minute change to your schedule due to missing prerequisites, or
- your course is canceled due to low enrollment.

In addition, be aware that, on occasion, certain outside vendors may substitute an international version of a textbook for the version you have requested without notice. International versions of textbooks may be quite different from the editions we require.

Please visit our website at www.uhv.edu/bus/new/students/courseinfo.asp for more detailed information regarding purchasing textbooks.

Student Email Account Changes

Beginning this spring semester, returning students will no longer have their passwords reset to their date of birth at the beginning of each semester. Your account will have a password lifetime of 160 days. This means that your password will expire 160 days from the date you last changed your password. At that time, you will be prompted to change your password again. Once you have changed your password, you can Login to Student Email or Access Library Databases.

New students can initially access their student account by using their date of birth in the format of MMDDYYYY.

AACSB Visit

As many of you already know, the School of Business Administration is seeking AACSB International accreditation. The AACSB Peer Review Team was in Victoria from February 13-16 for the final visit to determine our accreditation status. During their visit, they asked to talk to students who are currently enrolled in the BBA and MBA programs. We would like to thank the following students for participating in this very important meeting:

<u>MBA</u>	<u>BBA</u>
Arun Anand	June Cernosek
Mark Buhrke	Kristen Hawes
Sean Burnett	Yvonne Hernandez
Robin Cadle	Sarah Hester
Lin Cai	Lydia Huber
Nicole Castro	Laura Island
Jose da Rocha	Michael Jurkash
Nancy Edwards	Jonathan King
Ofelia Elizondo	Bohdanka Lowder
Claudine Gallo	Eric Parker
George Jarasa	Denise Prescott
Paul Lanham	Karrie Rand
Abbas Naqvi	Jason Sulak
Ayowale Ogunye	Malinda Willoughby
Loc Phan	Joshua Zeller
Janaina Sari da Rocha	
Meta Schwader-Chavez	
Stacey Severovich	
Fareeda Velani	
Veena Venkata	
Julie Ward	
Sariah Welch	
Terronica Wilson	

There were several students who also volunteered to conduct the meeting through teleconference. We appreciate your effort to participate, and thank you for being committed to your university.

The Business Accreditation Committee will make a final decision regarding our accreditation in late March. We should know whether we received this prestigious accreditation by late April. Please check the SoBA website for updates regarding AACSB accreditation at www.uhv.edu/bus.

NAAAP

The National Association of Asian American Professionals is the largest and fastest-growing Asian American professional organization in the US and Canada.

The NAAAP is a non-profit organization that enables professionals across the country to establish professional development, become aware of cultural diversity, engage in community service, and learn about networking opportunities. There are currently 24 chapters across the country, one of which is here in Houston. The Houston chapter opened in 1994 and represents the first chapter of NAAAP in Texas.

For more information about the many professional opportunities and upcoming events through NAAAP, please visit their website at www.naaaphouston.org.

2005 Gulf Coast Symposium

The 2005 Gulf Coast Symposium on Human Resources Issues will be held at the Reliant Center in Houston, Texas on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12-13, 2005. The conference expects an attendance of over 1,000 Human Resource professionals featuring over 50 Professional Development sessions, a 170-exhibit tradeshow, and nationally-known keynote speakers.

The HR conference will provide an excellent opportunity for you to network with many corporations in the Houston area. To obtain further information about the conference and learn about attendee pricing, please go to www.gulfcoastsymposium.org.

The UHV School of Business Administration will have a booth at the conference, so please stop by booth #412 to say hello. We look forward to seeing you there!

Gulf Coast Symposium on Human Resources

April 12-13, 2005

Sell Your Textbooks

Tired of holding on to your textbooks after you've completed a course?

UHV students can post textbooks for sale through the University of Houston-Victoria online student publication, The Flame. To submit a listing, email the name of the textbook you want to sell, the course that it was used in, and your contact information (phone or email address) to theflame@uhv.edu.

In the Spotlight: *Holly Verhasselt* Student Access and Diversity Coordinator

Holly became part of the SoBA team in October, 2003 as the Student Access and Diversity Coordinator. She has an office at the University of Houston System Sugar Land campus. Holly is responsible for arranging the MBA case competition, presenting the GMAT information sessions, organizing career services, completing other projects for the SoBA, and some advising and recruiting activities.

Prior to joining UHV, Holly worked as a graduate student advisor in the College of Technology at the University of Houston main campus.



Spring 2005 GMAT Sessions

A SoBA GMAT Session is held each month at one of the three University of Houston-Victoria campus locations: University of Houston-Victoria, UH System at Sugar Land, UH System at Cinco Ranch.

Spring 2005 MBA Open Houses

UH System at Cinco Ranch

A SoBA Open House is held at the Cinco Ranch location the last Wednesday of each month from 4 to 7pm.

UH System at Sugar Land

A SoBA Open House is held at the Sugar Land location the second Wednesday of each month from 4 to 7pm.

Policy on Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity

It is the policy of the University of Houston-Victoria to ensure equal opportunity in all its educational programs and all terms and conditions of employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, handicap, or veteran status.

Upcoming Dates

February 11—Last Day to Apply for Spring Graduation
February 15—Last Day to Drop or Withdraw without Grade
February 23—UHSCR MBA Open House
March 1—Deadline for Summer International Student Applications
March 9—UHSSL MBA Open House
March 14-20—Spring Break
March 30—UHSCR MBA Open House
April 1—MBA Application Deadline for Summer
April 6—UHSCR Open House (all programs)
April 20—UHSSL MBA Open House
April 26—Last Day to Drop or Withdraw from Spring Semester
April 27—UHSCR MBA Open House
May 7—MBA Conference
May 7-13—Final Exams
May 11—UHSSL MBA Open House
May 14—Spring 2004 Commencement
May 18—UHSCR MBA Open House
May 30—Memorial Day Holiday

Contact Numbers for UHV SoBA

Current and prospective MBA and BBA students are encouraged to contact one of the following advisors with any questions about our programs:

- Rhiannon Davila, University of Houston-Victoria, (361) 570-4232
- Rosie McCusker, University of Houston System at Cinco Ranch, (832) 842-2858
- Kristy Hennessey, University of Houston System at Sugar Land, (281) 275-3318

All advisors may be reached by email at busadvisor@uhv.edu

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