

# NEWSLETTER

## *School of Business Administration*

- February 2008 -

### Fall 2007 MBA Case Competition Winners

The University of Houston-Victoria School of Business Administration is pleased to announce the winning teams from the Fall 2007 MBA Case Competition held on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at the University of Houston System Cinco Ranch campus in Katy, Texas.

The first place team, pictured below from left to right, included Sara Olfat, Heather Holsey, Christopher Thompson, and Sandra Aultman. The second place team included Christopher Whiteley, Jacquelin Michalak, Stephen Chauffe, and Lauren Nasser, and the third place team included Javier Castillo, Grant Garrison, Geena Philip, and Mike Kavanaugh.

Team rankings were based on a combination of the presentation scores and written case evaluations. Members of the top three teams received individual certificates, and names of the members of the winning team will appear on a perpetual plaque to be hung in the UHV School of Business Administration. Members of all three teams will also be invited to serve as panelists at future case competitions.

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, participate in the event. 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 Wal-mart. 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. Previous 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 MBA program alumni served as panelists for the case competition.

The Spring 2008 MBA Conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008 at UH System Cinco Ranch. For additional information about the upcoming conference, please visit the SoBA website at [www.uhv.edu/bus/conference/default.asp](http://www.uhv.edu/bus/conference/default.asp).



First Place Winners



Second Place Winners



Third Place Winners

## Want a Stress-free Semester?

- **Make sure your email filter is set to accept messages from individuals with a @uhv.edu address.** Important messages and reminders are sent to your email address on file. You can update your email address and select a preferred email account using the PeopleSoft system.
- **Remember that MGT 4340, MGT 6359 and MGT 6369 are capstone courses.** This means that they should be taken at the end of your degree coursework. Also, these courses are offered during the fall and spring semesters only. MGT 4340 and MGT 6359 have mandatory face-to-face presentation requirements.
- **Verify prerequisites.** Just because you can register for the course does not mean you have met the prerequisites. To verify prerequisites, visit [http://www.uhv.edu/catalog/course\\_descriptions.asp](http://www.uhv.edu/catalog/course_descriptions.asp). You will be dropped for missing prerequisites.
- **Register early.** Courses fill up fast! For the best course selection and to avoid having to wait-list a course request, register early. Instructors are not able to add students to full classes.
- **Pay tuition and fees by deadline.** Paying the minimum due will keep you from being dropped from your courses and having to register again during late registration when course selection is limited. You will also avoid paying late fees.
- **Set up your UHV email account and check it regularly.** This is the account that Financial Aid and Admissions will use when contacting you. It is important to utilize this free account.
- **Know your PeopleSoft ID when calling UHV.** Knowing your PeopleSoft ID will help the person assisting you locate your records faster.

## SoBA Hosting Off the Clock in Sugar Land

Mark your calendars! The School of Business Administration and the Alumni Relations Office will be hosting an Off the Clock event on Thursday, May 22, 2008 at the Ragin' Cajun in Sugar Land. This is a great opportunity to connect with other alumni and visit with SoBA faculty and staff. There will be complimentary appetizers, cash bar, and door prizes.

Ragin' Cajun  
16100 Kensington, Suite 400  
Sugar Land, Texas

For more information, please contact D'An Caskey at (361) 570-4117 or [caskeyd@uhv.edu](mailto:caskeyd@uhv.edu), or Stacey Severovich at (281) 275-3025 or [severovichs@uhv.edu](mailto:severovichs@uhv.edu).

## Upcoming Career Services Events

The Office of Career Services has several events scheduled during the Spring 2008 semester:

### Texas Job Fair: Tuesday, February 12, 10-3pm, University of St. Thomas

The Houston Area Consortium of Career Centers is hosting their annual job fair on February 12. This job fair is open to students and alumni from all majors. Professional dress is required, and students are encouraged to bring plenty of resumes. A complete list of participating companies and registration information are available at [www.haccc.org](http://www.haccc.org). UHV will be providing free transportation for students. For more information on transportation, please contact Eunice Mesa at [mesae@uhv.edu](mailto:mesae@uhv.edu) or (877) 970-4848 Ext. 369.

More events are being planned. Check the Events Calendar at [www.uhvconnect.org](http://www.uhvconnect.org) for new postings.

For additional information about the UHV Office of Career Services, please visit <http://www.uhv.edu/careerservices>.

## Attention Spring 2008 Graduates

The deadline to submit a graduation application for the spring 2008 semester was February 8. If you anticipate graduating this spring 2008 you should consider submitting your graduation application as soon as possible. Commencement application packages are available online at [www.uhv.edu/oar/forms.htm](http://www.uhv.edu/oar/forms.htm).

## SoBA Enrollment Increases 22%

The University of Houston-Victoria experienced a 12 percent increase in total enrollment this semester compared with the spring of 2007. To put that number in perspective, total spring enrollment in all Texas public universities grew by less than 1.5 percent annually between 2004 and 2007.

UHV enrollment grew by 314 students, giving the university almost 2,940 students this semester.

The majority of those students came to the School of Business Administration, the largest of the four UHV schools, which grew by about 22 percent, or about 195 students.

## Writing Tutors Available in Sugar Land

The Academic Center now has writing tutors available to help students at UH System Sugar Land. UHV students who need help writing and reviewing papers can sign up in the library (Room 203) for tutoring. Tutors will be available Monday-Thursday afternoons. The Academic Center also has many resources available online, including style guides, information resources, and other tutoring services. To take advantage of online tutoring, UHV students can send their papers as attachments to [tutor@uhv.edu](mailto:tutor@uhv.edu) to receive feedback. Students should send documents as attachments from their personal or UHV email accounts; documents cannot be sent from within WebCT.

If you need help in a specific class, you are encouraged to first contact your instructor. If enough students are interested in tutoring in a specific area, the Academic Center may be able to provide subject area tutoring.

For additional information about Academic Center services, please visit the center's website at <http://www.uhv.edu/ac>.

## SoBA Students Tour Igloo

During the fall 2007 semester, several UHV School of Business Administration students, faculty, and alumni had the opportunity to tour the one million square foot Igloo manufacturing site in Katy. Al Payton, Safety Manager, explained each step in the manufacturing and distribution process. The tour started where raw materials are received and continued through the extrusion and assembly lines. After seeing the testing, final inspection and shipping area, the tour ended in the factory store.

In 2006, Igloo expanded their Katy facility to absorb the production lines from their old site at I-10 and Beltway 8, and at the same time relocated their corporate office to Katy. Since 1978, Igloo has been one of the largest employers in Katy and during peak production employs over 1400 people. Next time you use your Igloo cooler, remember that it was most likely manufactured in Katy, as this is the only Igloo manufacturing facility in the world.

## Summer 2008 Registration

The summer semester will begin on June 2, 2008 and end on August 6, 2008. Registration for the summer semester is tentatively set to open on Monday, April 21 at 8:00am. Register early for the best course selection!

## NSHMBA 18th Annual Convention and Career Expo

On October 5 and 6, 2007, the University of Houston-Victoria School of Business Administration sponsored a booth at the National Society of Hispanic MBA's 18th Annual Convention and Career Expo. The Career Expo was held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. NSHMBA hosts this event annually in different cities across the US. The schedule of events includes career seminars, professional development workshops, and a career fair and interview booths.

Information released by NSHMBA highlights the importance of this event for MBA students looking for employment. The 2007 conference included 240 corporate sponsors using 500 interview booths to fill positions within the US and worldwide. In two days, employers conducted over 4,000 on-site interviews. Total attendance exceeded 8,000 people. NSHMBA awarded over a million dollars in scholarships and financial assistance.

The National Society of Hispanic MBA's and the National Black MBA Association annually host two of the largest career fairs for MBA students. If you anticipate looking for a job after graduation, you may want to consider attending one of these events. Additional information about the annual conferences and membership opportunities is available through the websites listed below.

National Society of Hispanic MBA's  
[www.nshmba.org](http://www.nshmba.org)

National Black MBA Association  
[www.nbmbaa.org](http://www.nbmbaa.org)



NSHMBA Rio Grande Valley Chapter President Imelda Leal; Holly Verhasselt, UHV-SoBA; Eunice Mesa, UHV-Career Services; Stacey Severovich, UHV-SoBA.

## Global MBA Team Places 7th in Business Strategy Game

Using strategies developed while earning the University of Houston-Victoria's Global MBA, two UHV graduate students placed seventh for their return on equity in the final week of the semester-long Business Strategy Game (BSG). Two thousand eighteen teams, representing 162 institutions worldwide, participated in the competition.

The UHV students achieved this ranking during the university's first semester to compete in the simulation game.

Each week, the teams were rated based on earnings per share, stock price appreciation, credit rating and return on equity.

Nagarajan Ravishankar, a student in UHV's Strategic MBA program, and Ayowale B. Ogunye, an alumnus of UHV's Strategic MBA program, were on the UHV team that placed seventh. The team's return on equity was 45.9 percent.

The Business Strategy Game is an online exercise in which class members are divided into teams and assigned the task of running an athletic footwear company in head-to-head competition against companies managed by other student teams. Company operations in the simulation game parallel those of actual athletic footwear companies.



From left: Nagarajan Ravishankar, Jifu Wang, Ayowale Ogunye

As in the real world, the BGS virtual companies compete in a global market arena, selling branded and private-label athletic footwear in four geographic regions: Europe-Africa, North America, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. The teams are challenged to craft and execute a competitive strategy that results in a respected brand image, keeps the virtual company in contention for global market leadership, and produces good financial performance.

The game is used as an instructional and assessment tool by 415 institutions worldwide; UHV is one of 24 Texas schools included in the list.

Ravishankar found the competition exciting. "During the second week of the game, I started working on how to position myself in the top-100 list," he said. "The best part of the experience was at 12:20 a.m. every Monday morning" when updates were posted.

"I was always thrilled to check my results for the previous week" Ravishankar added.

Ogunye described the simulation as "stimulating, exciting and comprehensive," adding that it required him to call on all of the skills he acquired throughout the MBA program. "It was game theory in action," he said. "One was always apprehensive of the moves and counter-moves of the rival teams, and constantly hoped to come out ahead."

Jifu Wang, a UHV School of Business Administration professor, anticipates that UHV will be represented in the simulation by at least 10 teams per year.

Charles Bullock, dean of business administration at UHV, was ecstatic about the achievement.

"For our students to have performed this well in a global competition speaks volumes about the quality of both the students themselves and the instruction they've received," Bullock said. "Students and faculty should be very proud of this achievement, which brings us one step closer to fulfilling our vision of global leadership in quality, innovative, adaptive and technology-driven programs."

# Welcome New SoBA Staff!

Melissa Jersild joined the SoBA team as Recruitment Coordinator in December 2007. She comes to us from UTMD Anderson Cancer Center where she was the provider of programs recognizing employees service, accomplishments, interests, and their eventual retirement. Melissa has a Master of Science in Education from Florida State University and a BA from Texas A&M University. Meeting new people is what brought her to UHV and her desire to inform prospective students about our award-winning programs will help us reach our growing recruitment goals. If you're at the Cinco Ranch campus, stop by and introduce yourself!



Angela Green joins the SoBA team as an Advising Specialist. She worked at California Baptist University for 12 years, and most recently at UH-Central. Angela has a BA in Psychology from California State University. SoBA began offering the BBA face-to-face at the UH System Sugar Land campus in Fall 2007. Angela is responsible for advising BBA students regarding admission requirements and degree objectives, including evaluation of transfer credit and degree plan preparation. Next time you're at the Sugar Land campus, stop by and say "Hi"!

## Spring 2008 Business Open Houses

A SoBA Open House is held at the Cinco Ranch location the last Wednesday of each month from 5 to 7pm, and at the Sugar Land location the second Wednesday of each month from 5 to 7pm. Presentations begin at 5pm and 6pm. For more information, please go to:  
<http://www.uhv.edu/bus/admission/openhouse.asp>



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