

School of Business Administration

NEWSLETTER

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University of Houston-Victoria

Spring 2005 MBA Case Competition Winners

The University of Houston-Victoria School of Business Administration is pleased to announce the winning teams from the Spring 2005 MBA Case Competition held on Saturday, May 7, 2005 at the University of Houston System Cinco Ranch campus in Katy, Texas.

The first place team, pictured with dean Charles Bullock below, included (left to right) Jose Luis da Rocha, Jr., Janaina Sari da Rocha, Stacey Severovich, and Wale Ogunye (Team 7). The second place team included Nicole Castro, Kori Rosalis, Kiran Sakhuja, and Jennifer Smith (Team 10), and the third place team included Arun Anand, German Herrero, and Robert Sorley (Team 13).

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, May 14, 2005. Participants in the top three groups will be welcomed back to the Fall 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 spring prepared original business case analyses on the Mills Corporation, which develops and manages malls such as the Katy Mills Mall. 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 Fall 2005 MBA Conference is scheduled for Saturday, December 3, 2005; the location will be announced soon. For additional information about the upcoming conference, please visit the SoBA website at www.uhv.edu/bus/new/students/mbacasecomp.asp



GOOD NEWS FOR MBA GRADS

For recent MBA graduates, this was the most successful job-hunting year since 2001. According to a survey conducted by the Graduate Management



Admission Council (GMAC), half of students finishing master's of business administration degrees this year had job offers by mid-March. This is the highest figure since 64 percent of students had offers in the 2001 survey.

Salary expectations also rose, with the average respondent expecting to earn \$84,318 after graduation, compared to \$76,147 in 2004. GMAC President Dave Wilson said employers have been reluctant to hire aggressively in recent years, but this year the market is back, the earnings are strong, there's solid growth.

The survey also found 32 percent of respondents said they considered the value of their MBA degree "outstanding" up from 23 percent in last year's survey. Students "think about an MBA as an investment, and it's a substantial one," Wilson said. Recent graduates look at their education in terms of what kind of return they are getting.

According to the survey, 45 percent of MBA grads plan to enter a different field from the one in which they worked before business school. The most popular fields today are consulting and finance/accounting and health care/pharmaceuticals.

How do employers plan to find these graduates? Employee referrals, on-campus recruiting, and internship programs are the most widely used methods. Employers also say these are the most effective means for attracting and hiring MBA candidates.

~ Associated Press

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EASIER ACCESS TO UH SYSTEM CINCO RANCH

Students attending classes at the University of Houston System at Cinco Ranch will find it faster and easier to get to class beginning later this summer.

The Westpark Tollway opened in May 2004, is already drastically cutting drive times between West Houston and inside the loop. The \$229 million Tollway currently extends from the intersection of Post Oak Boulevard at Richmond and Hwy 59 at Hillcroft west bound to Highway 6. Typical drive times for these sections are 20 minutes. The extension to FM 1464 and beyond to the Grand Parkway is scheduled for completion in summer 2005.

The Mason Road exit, due to open summer 2005, offers exceptional convenience to MBA students attending classes at UH System Cinco Ranch. Funded and constructed by Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA), the Westpark Tollway is limited to EZ TAG users only. To purchase an EZ tag online, visit www.hctra.com.

FALL 2005 REGISTRATION

Registration for the fall semester will begin on Friday, July 1st at 8:00am and will officially end on Friday, August 19th at noon. Please verify that you have fulfilled all prerequisites prior to registering for your courses. For full course listings, course syllabi, and textbook information please visit www.uhv.edu/bus/new/students/courseschedule.asp.

The fall semester will officially begin on August 22nd and will end on December 10th.

ATTENTION FALL 2005 GRADUATES

As a SoBA student, if you anticipate graduating this fall 2005 you should consider submitting your graduation application directly to your advisor before fall classes begin rather than waiting until the September 23rd deadline. We can complete your degree audit early and let you know if you need to make any changes to your registration in order to be eligible to graduate on schedule.

The commencement application packets are available online at www.uhv.edu/oar/Forms.htm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Although the fall semester seems a long way off, it is not too early to mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

- **August 6, 2005:** NSHMBA / NBMBA Houston Career Expo. This first ever career expo is a joint effort of the Houston Chapters of the National Society for Hispanic MBA's and the National Black MBA Association. It will be held at the Grand Hall at Rice University in Houston, Texas. For more information, please visit: www.houston.nshmba.org/calendar.asp?id=2324#.
- **September 22, 2005:** Sugar Land Career Fair. This career fair will be hosted by the UHV Career Planning and Placement Office and the UH System at Sugar Land. It will be held in the Rotunda at UH System Sugar Land from 1-4pm. Come prepared with copies of your resume and dressed in business attire.
- **September 29-October 1, 2005:** National Society of Hispanic MBA's 16th Annual Conference and Career Expo. This year's conference will be held in Anaheim, California at the Anaheim Convention Center. For more information about this event, please go to: www.nshmba.org/conference.asp.
- **October 11-16, 2005:** National Black MBA Association 27th Annual Conference and Exposition will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. For more information about this event, please go to: www.nbmbaa.org/annual_conference.cfm.

In the next few weeks, we will also be updating SoBA's career services webpage to include more information, including a schedule of job fairs and workshops, company websites, and job postings. If you have not yet given us feedback on the type of workshops/services you would like to see offered, you still have a chance to respond to our short career services survey. Please go to: www.uhv.edu/bus/new/other/career_services_survey.asp and let us know what you think!



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Summer 2005 MBA Open Houses

A SoBA Open House is held at the Cinco Ranch location the last Wednesday of each month from 4 to 7pm, and at the Sugar Land location the second Wednesday of each month from 4 to 7pm. For more information, please go to: www.uhv.edu/bus/new/programs/openhouse.asp

Summer 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. For more information, please go to: www.uhv.edu/bus/new/programs/gmatinfo.asp

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