Upcoming Events

Dinner with the Director series

Join Cheri DeClercq or John Miller and area Weekend MBA alumni for an informal event that will help you determine if the Broad Weekend MBA is right for you. Over a casual meal, you’ll interact with the program director and recent grads to better understand the program benefits, application process, and student experience.

See dates and click on location to register:
- Saturday, October 20 – Lansing
- Saturday, October 20 – Troy
- Tuesday, October 23 – Grand Rapids

Learn How to Network Naturally
October 22, 2012
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI

Click here to register

Join us for a reception, dinner and keynote address by Carol Ross on October 22 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference

WMB/A/EMBA Alumni Spotlight: Working Abroad

Elizabeth Sickles
Project Manager, Adaptive Solutions at Comau
2011 MSU WMBA Graduate

It had been two hours since I landed in Turin, Italy and I was still at the airport. First, my GPS was in German when I got to my rental car, so I had to go back to the front desk. Then, even though I grew up driving manuals, I could not figure out how to get my Opel minivan in reverse. And so it began, the unknown length of time I would spend between Italy and France to fix a project that had gone very wrong. It’s a $10MM US project to install a new assembly line at a major heavy industry manufacturing plant in France. The customer was very upset, we were behind schedule, and the budget was getting smaller and smaller. It sounded like a great challenge, my boss asked me on a Monday if I would be willing to go over and clean it up. One week later I was in Turin, Italy.

WMB/A Faculty Recognitions

Congratulations to Judy Whipple, associate professor of supply chain management for her recognition from The Journal of Operations Management. The Journal has awarded the first-ever Jack Meredith Best Paper Award to Cheri Speier-Pero, Professor of Information Systems in accounting and information systems; Judy Whipple, associate professor of supply chain management; Dave Closs, the John H. McConnell Chaired Professor of Business Administration and chair of the Department of Supply Chain Management; and M. Douglass Voss (PhD Logistics ’06) for their paper “Global supply chain design considerations: Mitigating product safety and security risks.” The award was created this year to recognize the scholarly contributions of a former editor-in-chief of the journal, Jack Meredith. Meredith helped the journal to become established as the premier empirical journal in the field of operations management and supply chain management.
Center in East Lansing. The keynote will teach attendees how to take the stress out of networking and get better results in a way that feels natural; create a meaningful conversation with a stranger; and how to listen while networking.

Carol Ross is a career coach and team development consultant. Known as the Whole Brain Coach, her clients include leaders at Avaya, Caterpillar, Celestial Seasonings, Harley-Davidson, Motorola, Nelnet, and Wells Fargo.

This event is sponsored in part by the MSU Alumni Association.

**Successful Business Women's Event**

**November 8, 2012 - Lansing**  
**November 15, 2012 - Troy**

As professional women, we seldom carve out time to focus on our own needs and priorities. MSU’s Weekend MBA recognizes the power we have to encourage and inspire each other to make the most out of our lives and our careers.

Join us for an educational evening on **Thursday, November 8, 2012, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** at MSU’s Henry Center for Executive Development in Lansing or **Thursday, November 15, 2012, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** at MSU’s Management Education Center in Troy.

There is no cost to attend, but advance registration (by **Wednesday, October 31st**) is needed. To register, please email Tami Muethel with your

I took two mechanical engineers with me, and once we made it out of the airport, it was straight to work. I had heard that Europeans do not work as many hours as us, but I can assure you, that is not the case with Italians. The first week I was not leaving the office until 21:30 or 22:00 (that's 9:30pm or 10:00pm American time)! And I was there on Saturday. Perhaps it was just the state of the project, but that was the first of many, many weeks of late nights. Italians are very emotional, when they put their hands together in the prayer position, you better be ready, because a verbal attack is on the horizon! There were of course many heated discussions that were held in pure Italian. I can assure you that body language and tone can tell you everything you need to know, even when you don’t speak the local langue.

Espresso time, what a glorious five minute break it is. There were many vending machines that had either Café American or Espresso. When you have an Espresso, you drink the tiny cup at the vending machine, chat briefly about anything in the world expect work, and five minutes later you return back to

**Russell Johnson**, assistant professor of management has received Outstanding Reviewer of the Year awards from *Academy of Management Journal* and *Academy of Management Review* at the Academy of Management conference held August 2–7. Johnson also received the Seshe Award for Timeliness and Productivity from *The Leadership Quarterly*.

WMBAA offers its sincere congratulations to these truly valued professors and educators.

**Board of Directors**

**Executive Directors:**

**President:** Sean Whelan (2009)  
**Vice President:** Matthew Moberly (2007)  
**Secretary:** Rochelle Rizzi (2009)  
**Treasurer:** Valentina Djokaj (2002)
name and phone number. Join MSU faculty and staff, along with other career women for an evening that will energize your mind and your spirit. See you then!

Find other events at: https://broad.msu.edu/category/alumni-events

**Alumni Out and About**

**Ann Arbor Meet and Greet**

Class of 2014 Ann Arbor area students recently had the opportunity to meet and greet with a handful of area WMBA Alums (Tim Niles (2011), Todd & Kelly Plawinski (2011), Paul Salscheider (2007) and Jennifer Tankanow (2008)). The event was held May 16 at Moonwinks Café, in Ann Arbor, and served as a great meeting spot for program alumni to provide insight and to answer unanswered questions/concerns from the incoming 2014 students. The relaxed atmosphere allowed for an easy flow of information between new and former students and revolved around; challenges prior to/during the one week intensive/residency program and expectations about the upcoming 18 month program. The topic about the volume of accounting homework to be completed prior to arrival was even a topic of discussion. A good time was had by all.

**MSU vs. Notre Dame Tailgate**

The WMBAA Alumni Association enjoyed a successful tailgate for the MSU vs. Notre Dame game on September 15th. Alumni networked and enjoyed the company of fellow WMBA alumni and Broad MBA alumni.

**Board Members:**

**Class of 1999:**
Marc Johnson

**Class of 2003:**
Richard Isaacs

**Class of 2004:**
Phil Harwood

**Class of 2005:**
Lea Ammerman
Joel Colombo
Kathy Georgopoulos
Jim Harmer

**Class of 2008:**
Anand Gopalakrishnan
Michelle Hernandez

**Class of 2009:**
Sarah Post
Chadwick Taylor
Lori Haindl Torres
Karel Williams

**Class of 2011:**
Lynn Andrews
Greg Arendt
Dina Kowalewicz
Alana Reome

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Connie Lawson (Broad Alumni Office)
Cheri DeClercq (WMBA Program Office)

*If you have not been enrolled at MSU for more than two years, you MSU email account will no longer be valid. We do not want to lose contact with you! Please send us a new email address at: wmba@bus.msu.edu*

In wrapping my head around the project, the more questions I asked for clarity the murkier the water got. There was the initial contract of course, with all of the right signatures. But then there were amendments to the initial contract, changes made in MOM’s (Meeting of Minutes), and “gentlemen’s agreements”. The language barrier was still present, but extremely minimum. Everyone in management in my company and the customer spoke perfect English. I read and speak French and was picking up Italian, it became quite obvious the tangled weave that had been wove was going to take a whole new level of skill to get the project back on track.

My initial goal was to understand the dynamics, how we got where we were, and make smart, common sense changes, quickly. After a week with my colleagues in Italy, it was time to meet the customer, and that brought about a whole new perspective and change of strategy.

Watch for chapter 2 in our next newsletter!

**Keeping up with the Times – Suggested Reading List**

**Marilyn Johnson:**

**Platform by Michael Hyatt**

To be successful in the market today, you must possess two strategic assets: a compelling *product* and a meaningful *platform*. In this step-by-step guide, Michael Hyatt, former
as well as current students and faculty. Thank you to all who attended and helped out. We look forward to seeing all alumni next year! Stay tuned for other game focused alumni events.

CEO and current Chairman of Thomas Nelson Publishers, takes readers behind the scenes, into the new world of social media success.

Book summaries provided in part by Amazon.

Show Your Spartan Spirit

It’s time to show your school and program spirit with unique customized apparel. We can help you find the perfect piece to show off your alma mater in the office, in the classroom, or at the Saturday tailgate!

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We look forward to your input!

For questions, suggestions or to request information about the newsletter, please contact the Communication Committee:

wmbacommunications@gmail.com

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