Hello Alumni & Friends of the UCR School of Business Administration,

Springtime 2011 at the UCR School of Business Administration is shaping up to be a busy season with much good news to share as well as some challenges. In spite of the difficulties resulting from a sluggish economy, faculty, staff and students at the school continue to move the school forward on the path to excellence. We are now recognized by Princeton Review as a top business school and just recently U.S. News & World Report announced SoBA as a Best Business College. You can be proud of your business school and its continued progress toward the goal of becoming nationally and internationally recognized. We are well on our way!

In addition to the rankings our accomplishments include:
- Reconnecting business alumni who are engaging with SoBA, providing internships, scholarships, mentoring and more. Note events for San Francisco and San Diego.
- Admission of SoBA’s first Ph.D. students in fall 2011.
- Continued progress in developing the MAcc, FEMBA and MA in Finance programs.
- Graduation of our inaugural class of Executive MBA students.
- Undergraduate recruitment receptions hosted by KPMG, Ernst & Young and Pfizer.

Please stay in touch with us. Come and visit. We are always happy to welcome you home to your UCR business school.

Sincerely,

David W. Stewart
Dean, School of Business Administration

SoBA Faculty Launch New Accounting Scholarship, Invite Alumni & Friends to Help

The rising cost of school has prompted UCR School of Business Administration professors Ted Mock and Michael Moore to launch a new scholarship for accounting students. The first will be awarded at the school’s annual scholarship awards ceremony on April 15. UCR business school accounting graduates are increasingly in the spotlight. KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young and others are actively recruiting SoBA’s best and brightest. Alumni and friends are invited to help these great students move forward in life. For more information, please contact Brent Hunter.
UCR Business Alumni are Invited to a Bay Area Alumni Reception

Friday, March 25th
4:30-6:30 p.m.
Ana Mandara Restaurant
891 Beach Street at Polk Street
Ghirardelli Square
San Francisco, CA 94109

Bay Area business alumni are invited to another get-together, to form a Bay Area Alumni Group. Our pre-game reception for the UCR vs. Stanford men’s basketball game in December 2010 was so successful, we decided to do it again!

Hosted by Chris Lam (B.S. 1991), CEO and owner of Pucci Foods

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Joined by David W. Stewart, Dean of the UCR School of Business Administration

RSVP to brent.hunter@ucr.edu or (951) 827-6201

San Diego Business Alumni to Get Together April 12

The initial steps in building a business alumni group in San Diego are underway and the first sign of that will take place on April 12 when business alumni area invited to join us at Dave & Buster’s in Mission Valley for a reception from 5:30-7 p.m. Jorge Marquez (MBA ’05; pictured below) and his wife Lily Chen (MBA ’05), who were married in the past year, will be hosting interested School of Business Highlanders at the reception. “We want to stay connected to UCR’s business school and want to connect with some of the hundreds of Highlanders who live in the San Diego area,” Marquez said. “We want to find out what kinds of subjects and activities are of interest to our alumni here and explore how we might work together.” As Dean David W. Stewart pointed out, “Our business alumni not only want to stay connected because of being Highlanders but also want to explore ways they can do business with each other and support each other’s careers.” Dave & Buster’s, located at 2931 Camino del Rio North near the intersection of I-8 and I-805, is excited to have us there and will be providing us with $10 gaming cards to enjoy some of the arcade fun at the restaurant. Everyone interested in attending should contact either Jorge Marquez or Brent Hunter.
SoBA in the News

Census and Commuter Study Brings UCR Business School to Spotlight

The UCR School of Business Administration has recently been making the headlines after the recent release of the Census, as well as a commuter study released by Beacon Economics. Coverage has included: Fox News at 11 KCOP, Boston Globe, Southern California Public Radio, Temecula Patch, Yahoo! News, Redlands Daily Facts, Contra Costa Times, North County Times, and The Press-Enterprise. Keep updated on coverage of SoBA in the media...

Business Alums Come Home for Blues & Brews Homecoming Celebration

On February 26, UCR business alumni returned home to their alma mater to celebrate Homecoming 2011. The “Blues & Brews” themed celebration drew alumni from the 40 years the business school has been providing management education. At the event, Dean David W. Stewart reported on the successes of the business school in the recent past, and the integral part business alumni play in the continuing success of the school. View photos from Homecoming on our YouTube site...

U.S. State Dept. Rep Visits UCR, Touts Asia-Pac Export

From The Press-Enterprise. Lorraine Hariton, a U.S. State Department special representative for commercial and business affairs, visited the UCR School of Business Administration on Friday to speak to local manufacturers and SoBA students about exporting to the Asia-Pacific region. Read more...

MBA Student Wins Honors at Clean Energy Competition

From The Press-Enterprise. MBA student Josh Goins was part of a team of UCR students that garnered honorable mention in the 6th annual Hydrogen Student Design Contest, organized by the Hydrogen Education Foundation and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Read more...

ATTENTION: EMPLOYERS!

Tap into a talented pool of tomorrow’s business leaders by posting job/internship opportunities for UCR School of Business Administration students.

- Post opportunities for current undergraduate students by contacting the UCR Career Center
- Post opportunities for current MBA students by contacting MBA Career Services Director Monica Martin

soba.ucr.edu
Alumni Spotlight:

Since her senior year at UCR, Elise Galanto (B.S. 2007) has dreamed of being an entrepreneur and starting her own restaurant business. After two years at PwC as external auditor, she decided to pursue a graduate education in global entrepreneurship. Fresh from graduating in August 2010 from Babson College with a M.S. in management, she is now better equipped to make her entrepreneurial dream a reality.

A graduate education in entrepreneurship seemed the most reasonable option for her, over culinary school or even a focus on restaurant management. “My thinking in wanting to go to business school was that I didn’t want to be limited to only restaurants,” Galanto said. “I feel the reason most restaurants fail is because they don’t think of it as a business and I want my restaurant to be a thriving business.” In addition, she wanted to supplement her knowledge of entrepreneurship with a global perspective. “I feel that all business leaders should be equipped with a global background or perspective to really stay ahead,” she said. “We are becoming a global society and our thinking has to be broadened globally.” In fact, the Babson program partnered with France’s EM Lyon and China’s Zhejiang University, and Galanto lived and learned at each school for four months each for the duration of the program, a challenging but rewarding experience for her that gave her a global perspective on business.

The graduate school route is not a decision to be taken lightly, she says. “I would advise anyone going back to school to really consider why you are going back,” she said. “Graduate school is expensive, and if you are going back to find yourself, find yourself in a less expensive way. I think graduate school is for people who already know what they want and [know that] going to school will help them achieve it.”

Galanto encourages sustaining connections with one’s alma mater and fellow alumni. For her, staying connected has helped in her path toward launching her own restaurant. After graduation, a Babson alum offered her a job in Seattle, allowing her the opportunity to learn firsthand about the restaurant experience. “My duties working in this company are basically divided by corporate duties and restaurant duties,” she said. “Half of my time is spent in the office helping the accounting, marketing, HR department, and the other half is doing a rotation through the restaurant both in the front and back of the house. So far I have been doing a kitchen rotation learning everything from dessert, pizzas, salads and entrees. …My next rotation will be in front of the house serving, hosting, and assisting in managing a restaurant.”

“This is by far the best thing that has happened to me,” she said. “I am getting paid to learn about the restaurant industry; and I am helping my fellow alum, because I am living in a real live case study seeing things in action and providing my thoughts of what I think can make the restaurant business even better. In addition, as I’m working at the restaurant I’m taking everything I am learning and finessing my business plan for my restaurant concept.”

“I think it’s extremely valuable to stay connected,” Galanto said. “Websites like LinkedIn are great tools to connect and stay connected. You never know what opportunities may unfold in the people that have [similar] experiences as you. For those of you that are reading this right now, I can be your newest contact.”

To contact her, e-mail elise.galanto@gmail.com.

soba.ucr.edu
Alumni Spotlight:
Chris Thompson
B.A. 2006, MBA 2008

There is no such thing as a typical work day for Chris Thompson (B.A. 2006, MBA 2008). As the Mentors Advising Students (MAS) Program Coordinator for Pathways to Success, his week may range from a day in the office to days out in the community interacting with local organizations and students.

Thompson first learned of Pathways to Success, a program launched in 2008 by the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership geared toward providing scholarship assistance to undergraduate students, after taking classes at the UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center and finishing his MBA. “I was interested to learn more, and I jumped in with a fresh young student perspective,” he said. “I started by helping in any areas where there might be gaps in coverage, including marketing, public presentations, data management, accounting, and grant strategy.”

He also helped with obtaining a grant for a mentorship program for scholarship recipients. “[When] I was seeking funding for the program, I had to give it a name and I wanted an acronym that meant something, so I chose MAS, Mentors Advising Students. But also mas in Spanish means more, and that is what I try to give these students: A connection to a mentor who can give them more.” Now he coordinates the program, recruiting mentors, connecting with academic advisors, and assisting students with placement in internships.

“As a graduate student, he was able to interact with local businesses. One of his internships was at RR Broadcasting, a radio organization that manages five local stations. “I was able to begin building my network of professionals who gave me the opportunity to prove my strong work ethic and problem solving positive attitude as I continued to grow professionally,” he said.

Right now, Thompson is putting to use his graduate school experiences at Pathways to Success. “It is a joy when I get to interact with local businesses and explain the program and do my best to show the value of them spending their time with our program,” he said. “If they can realize that these students are their future employees and could be their current client base then I have done my job.”

Thompson is a lifetime member of the UCR Alumni Association and can be contacted via cthom002@ucr.edu.

We’d Love to Hear From You!
Is there something you’d like to share with your fellow alumni? Let us know for inclusion in our next newsletter!