REPORTS FROM REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

LONDON ASSOCIATION

The LAA welcomes Cecile to the Alumni World and takes the opportunity to thank Barbara for all her hard work on our behalf.

Senior Alumni Speaker Series

Simon Nelson, controller of BBC Radio and MBS Alumni, led an excellent seminar in October in the new Covent Garden premises. His message was clear, although slightly startling: Digital radio is a revolution that no-one can ignore; buy one for Christmas.

The next two events will also be led by Alumni. In November, Amanda Bouch will give a presentation under the title “Achieve competitive advantage through aligning culture to strategy and encouraging employee commitment”. In January, Timothy Fox will lead a seminar on ‘Dealing with Difficult People’.

These events demonstrate a commitment of the LAA committee to involve a greater number of alumni in the delivery and organisation of events, thus ensuring that the association is truly alive to its members and offers real networking possibilities.

Social Event

On 12 November, we welcomed the new Alumni to London with a wine tasting event at the Covent Garden premises. It was well attended and we are pleased to say that no incidents had to be reported to the police.

Management Lecture Series at AT Kearney

Next term we also expect to continue the Management Lecture Series at AT Kearney and through our alliance with the Association of Australian Accountants in London – a 5000 strong professional body that organises training and social events for its members. We hope that this and similar alliances, will increase the range of networking and training opportunities available to our members.

There is a bright future ahead for the London Alumni Group and it will continue to go from strength to strength with the enthusiasm of its members and the support of Manchester Business School. We also hope that the alumni will return the effort made by the school through their increasing support for school initiatives such as the International Programme and recruitment.

Felix Martin
London Alumni Association
NORTH WEST ASSOCIATION

It’s been a busy year. Highlights include:

We held a social event for graduating students to welcome them into the student body, which was great fun, and very successful. We plan to repeat this for every graduating class.

Lee Williams and Alistair Nicholls started the Networking Club, which meets Friday mornings every month in the Alumni Clubroom. It has been very popular, and has become well established.

Several golf events took place throughout the year, and the Golf Society is growing thanks, again, to the hard work of Lee Williams. Members of the North West alumni also took part in the Sailing event in May.

The Alumni Ball has become the anchor event of the Alumni calendar, this year taking place at Cottons Hotel in Knutsford.

It has been a pleasure to work with Barbara Beeby and the Alumni Office team, through all the changes that have been taking place this year. We wish Barbara well in her new role.

Next year we’ll be inviting faculty to give a seminar to alumni preceding each of the Vital Topics lectures, a format that has proven successful in the past.

We are planning to hold an event in January for new students to welcome them to the School, and promote the Alumni to them early in their time at MBS.

We will be doing whatever we can to support the development of Alumni Services in the bigger Manchester Business School. We are looking forward to working with Paula Barrow and Cecile Buckenmeyer, and the new team.

Finally, thank you to all the members of the North West Committee for their hard work throughout the year.

Martin Burke
North West Committee

CHINA ASSOCIATION

The China Alumni group have held a large number of events during the past year, although these have been on a small scale.

Annual Dinner
The most noticeable event this year was the Grand MBS Annual Dinner, Shanghai which was held on 12 September 2004.

This year, we had over 16 participants attending the event which was held at Shanghai Tomorrow Square and below are some of the points that were discussed during the event.

1. We would like to maintain the tradition of holding an MBS China Alumni Annual Dinner in Shanghai every year in September or October.
2. We would ideally try to hold the event on a Saturday night so that more people (including those from outside town) could attend.
3. We have an ambition to host the global MBS alumni conference in Shanghai in the future, like what Wharton and Harvard were doing in China.

Bob Wu
China Alumni Association

HONG KONG ASSOCIATION

Over the past few months, alumni and students have been working very hard for the development of the structural framework of the MBS Alumni Association Hong Kong ("MBSAAHK"). Our high participation rate in various events shows our extensive commitment to MBS family. Events such as network drink, boat cruise and academic seminars by Dr. Alison Smart and Dr. Nick Collett all received overwhelming responses. Every participant enjoyed both the preparation process and end result.

Arousing business awareness of the uniqueness of MBS graduates is one of our missions next year. It is our prime objective to promote the brand name of MBS through various means and unite our alumni to build a successful network. To achieve this, every single contribution is inevitably important. The following mission statements show our undertaking for long:

1. To enhance the image of MBS and MBA distance learning programme both locally and internationally;
2. To promote our unique professional excellence;
3. To share our learning experience and nurture our next generation talents;
4. To improve our communication with MBS and other MBSAA by developing more joint activities or visits;
5. To facilitate efficient internal communication among our alumni;
6. To better serve the local business sectors and public community.

In short term, it is far more work for us to do, such as building an updated and complete alumni database, organizing more activities and facilitating more feedbacks. The MBSAAHK is aimed at holding regular events in three main areas namely self-enhancement through academic seminars, networking via social activities and requiting to the society by community services. Activities will be held in next year include

1. social activities like Annual Dinner, network drinks and boat cruise;
2. sports activities like sports competition and war game;
3. self-enhancement activities like seminars, mentor-mentee programme and company visits;
4. community services like help for elderly, disable, Walk for Million and fund raising for the need.

The formation of MBSAAHK will be expected in mid of 2005. It is a moment of immense significance, demonstrating our aspiration and solidarity. The first General Meeting and Annual Dinner should catch the attention of our alumni and students. It is expected that they will enjoy an unforgettable evening together.
We are delighted to see our alumni benefited from the network we have built and have been given valuable supports for their future development. We are proud to be one of the MBSAA members and will continue our dedication to MBS ever success.

Tellurium Chung
Hong Kong Alumni Association

**SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION**

The Association organised management seminars and personal development workshops:
- Career Building – A discussion by Boyden Global Executive Search
- “The traits of company excellence in the western world – do they hold for companies in Singapore and the region?” by Kevin Jagiello, visiting fellow at MBS
- “Winning clients, building business through effective human relations skills” by Jan Vavra training consultant with Dale Carnegie

The association is very effectively bringing the alumni community together and promoting MBS in the region.

Cecile Buckenmeyer, on behalf of the Singapore Association

**GREECE ASSOCIATION**

There are two events concerning the group activities:

1. In April 2004, MBS and especially Jikyeong Kang gave a presentation to potential course applicants. This was something like a master class. Following the event, some of the alumni along with Jikyeong and Paul Johnson went for dinner.
2. In September 2004, Gordon Mandry was in Greece to give a lecture. Following this event, some of the alumni, Gordon and Glenis Normanton went out for dinner.

Christos Dimitriou
Greece Alumni Association

**SPANISH ASSOCIATION**

This year the Spanish Alumni club has organised two informal gatherings to meet each other and the new alumni who are settling in Madrid. Although we are trying to reach alumni in other cities, it is difficult to engage them in activities in Madrid. They are scattered over Spain: Majorca, Barcelona, Murcia and Valencia with just 1 or 2 people in each place. A research analysis was carried via email to know what sort of activities and degree of commitment could be found amongst our Spanish alumni, with most of them willing to formalise the club and also willing to pay an annual fee.

Javier Martin Vicente
Spain Alumni Association
NEW YORK ASSOCIATION

In the last year, the New York chapter has not been too active.

Networking Event

Last November we took part in the 2nd annual British Business Schools Alumni of NY Networking Event. It was held at the British Consulate and over 200 people attended from other alumni groups such as London Business School, Warwick, Cranfield and of course MBS. It was a great way to encourage mutual collaboration among the various business school groups.

MBA Fair

We took part in the MBA Fair on 19 September 04, in New York City. Rachel Tufft was in New York and there were two other alumni as well as myself who helped at the booth. I was also one of four panellists who spoke at a separate panel discussion that was held during the event that focussed on Getting Your MBA in Europe. Approximately 80 people attended this discussion.

Apart from that, not much has occurred in 2004.

Larissa Hrabec
New York Alumni Association

GERMAN ASSOCIATION

The Verein Alumni und Freunde der Universität Manchester e.V. (MAG) has been created by the alumni of the University of Manchester based in Germany. A constitution has just been finalised where Paul-David Baker (MBS94) has been appointed as Hon. Secretary. Meetings have already been organised in Bingen (near Frankfurt), Berlin and Darmstadt. The group also contributed to the promotion of a lecture by Gordon Mandry in November 04, organised as part of the Manchester Business School European Tour and inviting both alumni and prospective students.

Cecile Buckenmeyer, on behalf of the German Association