Winter quarter of this year, I had the wonderful opportunity to study abroad for 3 months in the Netherlands. This was truly an amazing experience, one that I will never forget. I had always been interested in studying abroad but never got the opportunity to do so during my undergraduate studies. Once I began my MBA/MPA studies last spring, I decided the time was right to investigate the possibility of studying in a foreign country.

I applied to Webster University, Leiden in September and in mid-October, 2004, I was accepted. Overall, I would say the selection and application process was fairly simple. I lived in the city of Leiden, a town of about 100,000 people that dates back to the 12th century. I love Leiden! It is a typical college town and has the benefits of having the lively city of Amsterdam only a 20-minute train ride away.

Living in Europe gave me the opportunity to travel to many different European countries: Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Germany, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, England, Ireland, France, Belgium, and Denmark. I enjoyed all the countries I visited, but my favorite country was the Netherlands. I found the Dutch to be extremely friendly people and a plus for Americans studying in the Netherlands is that 70% of the Dutch speak fluent English.

I took an International Business class while attending Webster University. The class was fairly difficult, but I learned so much about International Business. What I enjoyed most about this class was its student diversity. I was the only American in the class, giving me the opportunity to interact with students from all over the world. About half of the students were Dutch with the other half from countries within Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

I would highly recommend my study abroad experience. If anyone has any questions about studying abroad or about the Netherlands I would be more than happy to answer your questions.

Erica

Summer 2005 MBA Classes

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
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<th>Days</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<td>F 6-10, S 9-5 SU 1-5</td>
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What About … EWU MBA Alumni Report

Joshua Tucker, Winter 2004
Joshua is currently working as a supervisor for World Wide Group here in Spokane, WA and has taught one "Intro to Marketing" class for EWU. Last December he was married to the lovely and gracious Heather (whose only flaw is her poor taste in men).

The time I spent in the MBA program at EWU was a foundational period in my life. It has set the stage for the work that I am doing now – and plan to do in the future. The true strength of the program is its people. I had several professors that were able to instill powerful business writing, speaking, and thinking skills that work in a practical day-to-day environment. Even better, the professors encouraged interaction with my fellow students, and I learned just as much from my peers as I did from the "teachers." The pool of real-world experience represented in the MBA student body was tremendous, and the lessons I learned from my peers will serve me well no matter where I end up. After completing my MBA degree, I was immediately offered a full-time job in the company where I was working part-time and I was just recently promoted to supervisor of my company's fledgling internet support operations.

There is no doubt that my time in the MBA program made this possible and helps me to succeed in my new position everyday. Like everything in life, what you get out of something depends on what you put in. I encourage everyone to seriously invest in this program and in their fellow students… the ROI is worth it!

Theresa Timms, Summer 2002
Theresa received her BBA in Finance and Law & Public Policy in 2001. She worked for a global consulting firm in Seattle and completed her MBA while on a 1-year sabbatical. She is currently living in Spokane, WA and working for a national bank doing commercial lending.

In a perfect world, I would have liked to have had more business experience to bring into my MBA studies than my four summers of internships for the Dept. of Energy; however, I was given a 12-month sabbatical and knew obtaining an MBA would be a good use of that time. Within a week after making the initial inquiry call to Dave Gorton, I was able to enroll, move to Spokane, and begin my studies. I quickly secured an internship at SIRTI with the help of Mr. Gorton and past knowledge of the Energy sector.

The MBA I received from EWU brought my undergraduate studies to fruition by working with diverse teams to accomplish one goal, overcoming hurdles, applying my analytical skills to think at a higher more "big picture" level, and solidifying the notion of completing a project from beginning to end with milestones and deadlines to accomplish along the way. One of my most favorite experiences during the program was the course I took in England during the summer studying the urban morphology of British cities. As a result of my time at EWU, I’ve made lifelong friendships and business contacts and can even trace my current job back to a classmate and staff member of the university. EWU’s MBA program was a good fit for me, a great use of my 12-month sabbatical, and an experience I have been able to benefit from in my career.

Joel Luc Raveloharimisy, Spring 2004

The EWU MBA program has been beneficial to my professional as well as my personal life. Not only did the program offer me new knowledge and skills, but it also reaffirmed what I already knew. It provided insight into competencies and capabilities relevant to my business career. The analysis of different case studies instilled in me the ability to develop a personal framework for problem solving. I view the program as rewarding because it has integrated and solidified my various business talents and advanced my personal development.

Successful achievements have taken place as I put into practice what I have learned. I am currently a Graduate Assistant at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. My job is to write and administer grants for the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum. I also work as Consultant and Project Developer for different International Organizations. The International Operations, Grants Writing and Administration, and Managerial Communication classes I took at EWU have increased my self-confidence and creativity in doing my job. Many local and international socio-economic development projects have been funded by the use of the skills and knowledge that I gained from these classes.

I have been recently admitted and offered a full-time Doctoral Associateship Appointment at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, for this coming Fall semester. I am sure that the academic training I received at EWU will largely contribute to the success of my doctoral studies in Political Science/Political Development. Thank you EWU MBA program!

OPINION—MBA Students Speak UP!

Anonymous—In general, I’ve been very pleased with EWU’s MBA program thus far. I love the small class sizes, and willingness of professors to be present and available for help, suggestions, and feedback. Although almost every class I’ve taken has been valuable and educational, it is important to understand that some classes definitely have more homework than others. This can make things difficult and overwhelming at times, even with a part-time schedule! I would recommend asking other MBA students prior to registering for classes to make sure your personal/work schedule will be able to handle the potential homework load. I wouldn’t suggest taking Accounting and Research at the same time!!
**Kaarin Appel**

I began the MBA program at EWU because I felt stagnant in my position and like I could not progress. I was hesitant to go back to school because I dreaded class time, papers, and tests. Thankfully, lessons learned in class and from classmates were immediately applicable to my daily work and piqued my interest. These lessons have given me the necessary skills and confidence to advance as far as I want to go.

During the past two years, I have grown personally and professionally and I have made connections that will last a lifetime. I extend my gratitude to our professors who make the coursework interesting and applicable, classmates who are equally as important to the learning experiences, and of course, Cy Parker, who persistently and successfully navigates each student through the maze of grad school. Cy is truly a valued asset to the MBA program.

**Susan Huck**

Returning to school to pursue a master of business administration degree was something I had felt driven to do for several years. It was not until I became a supervisor that the need to upgrade my knowledge, skills, and abilities pushed me into action.

The curriculum in Eastern's MBA program helped developed my ability to analyze situations, evaluate them critically, and to see the big picture. Getting to know some really great classmates in the process was a huge bonus. The professors were very knowledgeable and went out of their way to make the learning process as interesting and applicable as possible. The smaller classes allowed for plenty of one-on-one interaction. Eastern's MBA program would not be as successful were it not for the hands-on guidance from Cy Parker, MBA Program Secretary. Thank you all for a memorable experience!

**Masafumi Okano**

It’s hard to believe that I’m now at the final stage of my study in the MBA program! I entered the MBA program to gain professional knowledge of business and improve my English communication skills. When I was working in Japan, I thought those would be necessary to pursue my career development in this era of expanding international business. The study in the program is very professional, challenging, and practical. For example, the research project class allowed me to cultivate my business analytical skills. Also, frequent presentation work helped me boost my presentational skills. The faculty and my classmates have diverse business and cultural backgrounds. It was a great honor for me to be able to share the experiences and ideas with them to think about business.

The accomplishment of my academic goal here will serve as powerful encouragement in my future career. I would like to give my appreciation to the faculty, support staff, and my peers for giving me much advice on my study and American life.

The faculty, students, and administration offer our sincere congratulations to all of the MBA students graduating this Spring quarter: Kaarin Appel, Matthew Ashton, Andria Assink, Vanessa Barsda, Melanie Benjamin, Mike Crumb, Chris Cummings, Jonathan Ferraiuolo, Mark Grover, Susan Huck, Katrin Lippoldt, Rachel Rupiper, Ryan Stemkoski, Shunsuke Takezawa, and Doug Wiechmann.

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**Spring 2005 MBA Graduates**

**Masafumi Okano**

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**Fall 2005 MBA Classes**

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<th>Class</th>
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*One 400-level class approved as elective in the MBA program*
Thinking About a Research Report Instead of a Portfolio? - Here Are Helpful TIPS

Recently we have had a number of questions about this issue and it seems to me that students really don’t understand what is involved in a Research Report. The Graduate Studies Catalog describes it this way: “Independent research resulting in a scholarly paper under the direction of the student’s graduate committee chairperson.” This does not tell us much. The MBA Student Manual says this: “The student conducts a research project and prepares a written report under the direction of a committee of faculty teaching graduate courses. The credits earned for the research report may vary from 4 to 8 credits depending on the extent of the project. This option allows a student to conduct a research project and write a publishable paper presenting the results of the project, methodology, etc. Term papers written by the student for partial fulfillment of a specific course requirement cannot be used again under this option. The student should submit a formal research proposal, which requires the approval of an MBA faculty member, who will serve as chair of the student’s oral examination committee, and the MBA director.”

This is perhaps better but does not really give us much idea about the nitty gritty details. First and foremost, I think you need to know that if you are planning on doing a Research Report, you need to begin the process during your first quarter. This is when you will decide on a topic and choose the faculty member with whom you will work. If you don’t do it then, you will not have time to do the work that is necessary.

Another important fact to know about electing to do a Research Report is that you are on your own. You don’t get any help from me in choosing your Committee Chair and Second Member. You must let the Graduate Studies Office know that you are doing the report so they can find your Third Member, and you are responsible for getting the Terminal Research Approval Form signed and delivered. This document is very important and MUST be in the Graduate Office by no later than two weeks before the date of your orals.

Remember, this is a scholarly document that could be published. This has very little relationship to the papers you do for your other courses. If you use one of your course papers, it must be expanded to fit this description. This option is for those of you who have a passion for a subject and wish to expand your knowledge and learn as much about it as you can. Cy

Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

♦ Application for Candidacy—All MBA students
  Advancement to candidacy must take place after completion of 16 credits and before completion of 24 credits. If you wait and earn more than 24 credits, you must file additional paperwork. You received the form in your MBA 500 class or you can pick up a new one from Cy at Riverpoint or get it online at http://www.ewu.edu/x12976.xml.

♦ Graduation Application
  Graduation Applications have to be handed in the second Friday of the quarter preceding the quarter of graduation. Forms are available at http://www.ewu.edu/x12976.xml.

♦ Summer 2005 Quarter Academic Calendar
  * Instruction Begins: Monday, June 20
  * Independence Day: Monday, July 4
  * Summer Priority Registration: Monday, April 25
  * Last Day of Instruction: Friday, August 12
  * Final Exams Week: Thursday & Friday, August 11 & 12

♦ Fall 2005 Quarter Academic Calendar
  * Fall Priority Registration: Monday, May 16
  * Instruction Begins: Wednesday, September 21
  * Veterans’ Day: Friday, November 11
  * Thanksgiving: Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25
  * Last Day of Instruction: Friday, December 2
  * Final Exams Week: Monday—Thursday, December 5-8

♦ Entrepreneurship Seminars (for more info please contact Terry Sanchez @ 358-2208)
  The CPBA’s Business Resource Center will deliver a series of monthly seminars addressing the business planning needs of entrepreneurs and small firms which will focus on topics such as accounting, legal issues, and marketing. Remaining dates of seminars are:
  * June 18, 2005
  * August 20, 2005