HOLIDAY PARTY RECAPS

HALIFAX
On December 12th, 4 of the 5 Halifax alumni gathered at gourmet pizza eatery Morris East for a holiday get-together (unfortunately Amy Gordinier-Regan could not make it). Michael Hodgett (MBA ’85D), Daniel Holland (MBA ’02J), David Regan (MBA ’96D) and Peter Guy (MBA ’06J) kicked off the evening with a bottle of Prosecco before moving into a long wine-fuelled dinner during a cold and snowy evening in downtown Halifax.

MONTREAL
It was a snowy evening on the scheduled night of the Montreal INSEAD Christmas party - actually the second snowstorm of the season in what is turning out to be a record snowfall year.

TORONTO
On Wednesday, December 5th, 2007, approximately 50 alumni and guests gathered at Toronto’s Cantine Restaurant to bring in the holiday season in style. Our Canadian Alumni Association President, Philippe Castonguay, made a special trip down from Montreal to spread his good cheer among the Toronto alums.

Still a dozen dedicated alums braved the weather conditions, by car, taxi and/or metro to come together for a cozy evening of comraderie over a delicious trio of cheese, chinese and then chocolate and maple fondue at Restaurant Fondumentale on rue St-Denis!
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

PHILIPPE CASTONGUAY, MBA '89J
PRESIDENT, IAA CANADA

Fellow alumni,

After a long and snowy winter, Spring has finally arrived to everybody’s delight. You will find in this newsletter, details of upcoming activities in our association – please mark your calendar and join us!

A new, feature-rich release of our INSEAD Connect networking platform is now online. The new platform allows you to connect to INSEAD news, promotion news and events, find out what other alumni are up to and contact them, access career services and lifelong learning. Please make sure to [click here](#) and take a minute to browse the website and, more importantly, update your profile information so your friends and promotion colleagues can find you. In order to have access to the full services set, make sure your membership is up to date! Memberships expire January 1st and if you do not have an automatic renewal, please [click here](#) and renew today!

Sandra Schwarzer has recently been appointed Director of Career Services at INSEAD to replace Claire Lecoq, who recently left the School. In her new role, Sandra will manage the Career Services team across our two campuses and look after our MBAs, EMBA and, of course, our alumni. You will find more information in this newsletter regarding career services offered to alumni.

The INSEAD Energy Club is currently setting up a network of National Energy Clubs at the level of national alumni associations to create a forum of discussion and networking for alumni who are active in the energy and/or environment sectors. We are looking for alumni to take the lead in Canada on this initiative.

If you are interested, please contact me at: philippe.castonguay@alumni.insead.edu

Kamal Hassan, formerly VP Treasurer of our association, has launched our own Canadian Entrepreneurship Club. This group has already held successful events and attracted a following in Toronto. Please contact: kamal.hassan@alumni.insead.edu if you are interested in participating or launching a local chapter in Montréal, Vancouver or elsewhere.

Please keep our newsletter editor, Peter Guy, informed of any news you want to convey to our alumni: career moves, openings, fun stories, marriages, births, anniversaries, etc., etc.!

“THE NEW [INSEAD CONNECT] PLATFORM ALLOWS YOU TO CONNECT TO INSEAD NEWS, PROMOTION NEWS AND EVENTS, FIND OUT WHAT OTHER ALUMNI ARE UP TO AND CONTACT THEM, ACCESS CAREER SERVICES AND LIFELONG LEARNING.”

Best regards,

[Signature]
EDITOR’S MESSAGE

Over the course of the last year, I’ve slowly introduced these changes. From a more graphical and stylish layout, to injecting snippets of our other official language, to new features like the Alumnus Q&A debuted in this issue. You will likely notice that this is the inaugural issue of our completely new design layout that we are particularly proud of (thanks to Paperscratcher Designs). You will also notice that this newsletter has no formal title yet. I am reaching out to all fellow Canadian alumni to suggest a name for our new newsletter. One that captures both the essence of the INSEAD experience and the uniqueness of the Canadian businessperson. Please forward your suggestions to me at the address below.

What are my plans for the newsletter in the coming year? Well, for starters, since we have such an enormous pool of talented alumni to choose from, I plan to begin featuring two alumni Q&A’s going forward. Given that we are, by charter at least, a bilingual country, I also intend to introduce more French content. I aim to publish these newsletters regularly, one for each of our four seasons. And finally, as Philippe implored, I’d like your help in increasing the “human interest” content. Stories about career changes and life changes (new jobs, babies, weddings, anniversaries, etc.) of our alumni.

I’ll start. I have recently moved from Halifax to New York City to join a new venture doing some exciting things in sales and marketing optimization. I will continue to compile, edit, layout, and distribute our IAA Canada newsletter from INSEAD’s largest and most active alumni base in North America here in the tri-state area and will remain heavily involved in IAA Canada.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the summer in Toronto, Montréal, Halifax, and New York!

Peter Guy, MBA ’06J
peter.guy@alumni.insead.edu
INSEAD CONNECT

INSEAD Connect is becoming the main hub for alumni services and communications and there are many new features which will be implemented in the next couple of months. The main goal is to centralize services in one place with direct access to the database and up-to-date data. By driving our alumni to the website in providing more incentives, they are more likely to update their data, hence improving our data quality globally. By reducing the number of existing external websites, such as replacing inseadalumni.org, we will make INSEAD Connect the portal for all information and services for our entire alumni community.

NAA WEBSITES
Specifications are finalized, developments will be done in February, launch in March. Each website will be within INSEAD Connect with pages containing information about News, Events, Contacts, Newsletters, Clubs and Bulletin boards. Each association will have full administrative access to manage the structure and content of these sites and of course the Alumni office will be there to help with any updates.

ADMINISTRATIVE TOOLS
Specifications are finalized, developments will be done in February, launch in March. We will build on existing administrative tools which include read/write access to your community’s details in Connect (this is particularly important as we try to improve the quality of our database) and membership management. New features will focus on an emailing tool with direct access to the latest email addresses and event management (add event, access to attendee lists, etc). We want to be able to support you in your activities. Moreover, by centralizing the knowledge and best practices, the Alumni Office will provide a resource centre, also at your disposal via the site to access and upload logos, templates and some case studies from different associations.

NETWORKING TOOLS
Specifications are being set, developments will be done in February/March, launch in March/April. Class web sites will be developed, incorporating features such as class notes, photo upload, emailing tools, bulletin boards and linking through to current content which is available on our campus today. We are looking hard at how we can use this content and services provided to our current students (MBA, EDP, EMBA, etc) including material, content and tools which are available on their sites. We will also be exploring industry forums and blogs, and club websites so that our alumni community has many possibilities to hook into the global alumni network.
ALUMNUS Q&A : BLAKE GOLDRING

FULL NAME  Blake C. Goldring
PROMOTION  ’82J
PASSPORT(S)  Canada
DAY JOB  Chairman & CEO, AGF Management Ltd.
OTHER JOBS  Chauffeur, Barbeque Chef and Baggage Handler on family trips for three daughters
HOMETOWN  Toronto (Don’t hold it against me!)
YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN  Restaurants; vibrant arts scene; a family-friendly city; culturally, a really interesting place to be.
CURRENT TOWN  Toronto
BEST INSEAD MEMORY  The pace and intensity of INSEAD - we worked and played hard.
WHERE YOU LIVED AT INSEAD  Residence on campus.

FAVORITE CLASS AND/OR PROFESSOR  Prof. John Bequist / Finance.
HOW INSEAD HELPED YOU MOST  Being reminded that Toronto was not the centre of the universe!!!
ANY CULTURE SHOCK STORIES  I brought a case of Canadian Club whiskey to INSEAD and hosted a residence party. The case was downed in an evening proving that INSEADers (a) have cosmopolitan tastes, and (b) are hearty drinkers!
FIRST JOB AFTER INSEAD  I was hired to be a banker in Paris but was relocated to Toronto soon after!
WHAT YOU ARE READING RIGHT NOW  The Global Business Leader by Frank Brown (of course!). Other books include “How Wars are Won” by Devin Alexander.
CURRENTLY ON YOUR IPOD/GRAMOPHONE  Eclectic - Amy Winehouse, Justin Timberlake, Boss and Beatles / Stones, Maroon 5, Suzanne Vega (Beauty and Crime).

FAVORITE RESTAURANT IN THE WORLD  It depends on the type of food. For sushi, Kyuubei in Ginza, Tokyo. Balthazar in New York for ambiance and atmosphere.
FAVORITE HOCKEY TEAM  The Toronto Maple Leafs, of course! I am proud of the fact that I can still name half of the players on Toronto’s last Stanley Cup team (1967!!!).
KEEPING YOU AWAKE AT NIGHT  I rarely have a problem sleeping. I have occasionally been vexed over the question “Will the Leafs ever win another Stanley Cup??”
YOUR OPINION OF CANADA’S BIGGEST CHALLENGES  (1) Our tax rates are too high; (2) The unrelenting “hollowing out” of corporate Canada will have a negative impact on our society; (3) We do not engage in enough public debate and discussion on issues impacting Canada’s foreign policy (energy, trade, northern sovereignty, security.)
YOUR FUTURE PLANS/PROJECTS  Personal – Knocking a few strokes off my 28 handicap. Business – More of the same! Charity – Helping raise the awareness of our soldiers to a level of everyday conversation throughout Canada.
OTHER EVENT RECAPS

VANCOUVER 1
Over 15 alumni of the IBSN (International Business School Network) gathered at FigMint Restaurant and bar for an early holiday celebration on November 29. The IBSN is an informal group of local alumni from 10 international business schools. IBSN events are held a few times per year and range from casual drinks to guest speaker presentations with a focus on networking. For more information, please contact INSEAD alumnus Angela Kelleher (MBA ’93J) at: angela.kelleher@alumni.insead.edu.

VANCOUVER 2
Over 60 alumni of INSEAD, Queen’s School of Business, London Business School, UBC, and IMD, among others, celebrated an early spring at The Sandbar Restaurant on Granville Island on February 20. In addition to business alumni, invited guests included entrepreneurs, lawyers, accountants and other professionals for an evening of informal networking at one of Vancouver’s classic restaurants on Granville Island. VanBizNet is an informal organization comprised of local business school alumni and other Vancouver professionals who share an interest in getting together informally to network for business and social contacts in a casual setting.

For more information, contact: alumni@business.queensu.ca or Darion Jones (EMBA ’00) of Marketing Express at djones@marketingexpress.ca. Darion is the main organizer for VanBizNet and our thanks go out to her for all the time and effort involved in bringing us these great events!

MONTÉRÉAL
A very successful INSEAD MBA information session was held in Montréal on Sunday January 13, at the W Hotel. More than 60 prospective candidates attended the event. Cassandra Pittman, Assistant Director of Marketing, MBA & Executive MBA Programmes for INSEAD presented highlights of the programme, while Kishan Chetan (MBA ’06J), Benoit-Carl Coulombe (MBA ’04J) and J.-Sebastien Lagarde (MBA ’00J) made a short presentation about their experiences at INSEAD and were on-hand to answer questions and discuss with the candidates.
UPCOMING EVENTS

VANCOUVER
INSEAD alumni will be treated to an exclusive wine and cheese party at the Consul General of France in Vancouver. The event is to be hosted at the Residence of France in late April or early May. Watch for an email soon with all the details or contact:
Dominic.David@telus.com if you want to participate.

MONTREAL
Philippe Castonguay, IAA Canada President will be hosting a cocktail reception at his home to celebrate St-Jean Baptiste. Stay tuned for details.

TORONTO
The French Consul General in Toronto, Mr. Philippe Delacroix, will host a reception for INSEAD Alumni (and guests), in presence of the Ambassador of France in Canada and Mrs. Daniel Jouanneau, at the Residence Consulaire.
When: Monday, April 21, 2008
Time: 6:30pm
Where: 474 Russell Hill Rd, Toronto
What: Wine and hors d’oeuvres
Cost: $10 per person
RSVP: anita.yu@rbccm.com
Let us collectively bid “adieu” to a long, cold winter et saluer le printemps in the company of good friends.

NEW YORK CITY
Transcultural Leadership Event
INSEAD’s second annual Transcultural Leadership Award Dinner will take place in New York City on April 28th. This year we are pleased to honor Mr. Carlos Ghosn, President and CEO, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. and President and CEO, Renault S.A. Mr. Ghosn was selected as this year’s recipient because of the outstanding example he has set as a transcultural leader and for his contribution to the internationalization of global business.
Click here to view the full invitation.
CAREER TRANSITION WORKSHOP

To target alumni who were considering career changes and life transitions, last March we hosted a career workshop of “Now What Do I Want To Be?” conducted by Mark Franklin, Career Counsellor, for a group of INSEAD alumni at the National Club. Mark took the group through a series of exercises which provided revelations to the participants for the roles or organizations to consider which would best match with their inherent set of personal values, professional goals, and align with their ethics and dreams.

For those who may have missed it, or are interested in more, consider another opportunity through Darden MBA alumni: Darden is hosting an upcoming three-day “Career Transitions” workshop on career management tools, in San Jose, California, on June 16-18, 2008. This will be their fifteenth offering of the workshop, and the first time on the West Coast.

The workshop is designed to help mid-career changers identify and execute plans to find more fulfilling career options for the next stage of their lives.

Here is a short outline of the program:

WHY CAREER TRANSITIONS?

Discovering “what’s next” is one of the most challenging and exciting steps in every individual’s life and career. The purpose of this workshop is to equip you with the career management skills and resources to determine “what’s next” and to achieve your career and life goals. Numerous self-assessment tools will be used to help you define your life themes and life dreams and turn them into career objectives. These assessment tools will be discussed and analyzed during the first two days of the workshop. The third day of the workshop will focus on the process of finding what’s next by creating high-impact resumes and marketing materials and developing the skills and resources to access today’s market.

For more information, contact Herb: W. Herbert Crowder III, Darden Alumni Career Services, 434.924.4878

THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES

The 2008 Olympic Games are approaching rapidly! For those of you who plan to attend, INSEAD alumni in China have created an on-line survey, to find out how we can help you get the most out of this experience as possible.

The survey can be found here.

“WE’RE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING SEVERAL ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES, AS WELL AS AN ALUMNI HOSTING PROGRAMME. LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU IN BEIJING IN AUGUST!”

Arnout Jacobs MBA ’03J
Michael Yurchenko MBA ’07D
Chris Evdemon MBA ’05D