



SWANSEA METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID
METROPOLITAN ABERTAWE
PRIFYSGOL CYMRU Y DRINDOD DEWI SANT

MBA Network

MBA Alumni
Association
of Swansea Met

2012 An exceptional year for MBA graduates

It has been another growth year for the MBA at Swansea Business School. In the June ceremonies over 150 MBA graduates completed studies and progressed to the next phase of their careers. Classes range from full time, part time and outreach. From our modest launch of the MBA in 1996, where we targeted local managers, the majority of graduates now come from international markets.

The full time class is seen here celebrating. Students come from the People's Republic of China, India, Finland, Bangladesh, Libya, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Georgia, the Slovak Republic and even Carmarthen! 2012-13 looks like another innovative year in prospect with negotiations to change delivery methods and grow our partner college relationships.



GRADUATE STORIES

If you want to get something done, ask a busy man!

Yi He (Edward) a Process Improvement Engineer, Tata Steel Europe, South Wales, is a 2012 MBA graduate.

Following his achievement of a Distinction award he says “I

found SMU offers some unique and very enjoyable learning experiences, for example, easy and flexible access to academic and student services, an open environment, professionally experienced lecturers and career focused modules”. His study of the MBA followed completion of a different masters at another UW college. In addition to being a busy steel manager, he studies Welsh, achieving level 3, represents Chinese students and the local Chinese community, including joining delegations to the Welsh Government and

finding time to be a Volunteer at the London Olympic Games. He is seen in the picture carrying an Olympic flame holder. Not satisfied with finishing his studies, he has registered for a doctorate, and intends to stay in Wales to complete it.



Nokia ‘Bridge’ A Sustainable Transformation program

Graduate Kimmo Saarela (MBA class of 2012), shares his experiences of recent restructuring at Nokia...

“Nokia has been forced to go through several re-structuring activities during the last few years. In February 2011 when Nokia announced a major strategy change and personnel reductions, it also announced a program called The Bridge. The aim of The Bridge program is to help impacted personnel to adjust to the new situation. The Bridge program aims to help people to find a new job either inside or outside of Nokia, start their own business, or learn something new. In practice, the company has

offered outplacement services to all the impacted personnel as a structured, orchestrated program driven by the HR department. The support made available to start a new business has probably been the most widely reported activity. However retraining and counselling also play their part. Unlike similar rationalisations in the past, there has been no big outcry as the public has had the necessity of change explained and Nokia is helping those it has to lay off. Hopefully this can be a model for other industries.”

Admiral Group - Winning Awards for Wales

2008 MBA graduate, Garan Pieniazek, currently Outbound Sales Director at Admiral Insurance, shares with us his experience of working for one of Wales’s most successful and well-regarded companies.

“Admiral Group has been consistently winning awards for the last few years; see its top position in the UK Great

Workplaces Guide 2012 (Large Employer Category). The Swansea branch has picked up its fair share as well (see picture). My current role involves supporting 260 outbound sales members of staff. Our function is to maximise new business, retain customers and create customer value. The key stakeholders we’re looking to satisfy are shareholders, customers and staff. The MBA

accelerated my learning of business and management and very useful ideas to help the business. I recall implementing a performance management philosophy taught in HRM back in 2004 which is still successfully utilised to this day. Therefore I will continue to



recommend that my colleagues join the MBA at SMU. We could almost run our own MBA Admiral Alumni club!”

NEWS AND EVENTS



Merger makes us stronger

All MBA Alumni can be assured that the well-publicised merger between SMU, Trinity St David's (former Lampeter and Trinity Universities) and the central functions of the University of Wales, will strengthen all our efforts to promote good management education and maintain the continuity of networking, which the MBA Alumni seeks to promote.

Swansea Business School will continue, indeed at a dedicated building on the High St, Swansea. TSD has a stable of excellent programmes (including a range of MBAs) and well qualified tutors. Inevitably there will be some rationalisation, but recruitment is buoyant and we will ensure that new initiatives use the strongest qualities from the merged institutions.

*Owen Lewis,
MBA Programme Director*

In January over 90 Swansea Business School MBA alumni from Finnish cohorts gathered together at Hamk University of Applied Sciences to support the alumni association and meet old friends.

Interesting and inspiring speeches, presentations and discussions during the day set up the direction for future meetings and a thriving alumni association. The keynote speaker Prof. Dr. (Capt) C.M. Chitale, Prof of Management Sciences, International Centre, University of Pune, set the scene emphasising the need for an international perspective, relevant to small and large enterprises. Further contributions were made by MBA graduates, Kirsi Levä, Virve Kivi, Markku Mikkola and Kimmo Levä. Dr Margaret Inman and Steve Griffiths, presented for Swansea Business School. The conference was followed by a dinner and some refreshments, with a sing song to conclude!

Management Development Conference in Finland



Swansea MBA Alumni Committee

The first meeting of the Swansea Branch met to discuss future arrangements in September 2012.

Volunteers pictured are back, L-R, Steve Griffiths (Assistant Dean Faculty of Business and Management), Tony Clement (2012), Garan Pieniazek (2007), Dr Maggie Inman (Director of the Centre for Post Graduate Studies), front L-R, Edward Yi He (2012), Trevor Walton (2005) & Berna Jones (2010). Owen Lewis and Yoko Arioshi gave their apologies but fed their suggestions in by

email. Several options were discussed, which will be posted. The committee actually has not yet been formed, so if you want to volunteer, the next meeting will be in January 2013. Get in touch!



Ilkka Saarinen: In memoriam

It came as sad news to hear of the tragic death of MBA graduate, Ilkka Saarinen (2005) in February 2012.

Ilkka died in an avalanche while skiing in Meadow Creek, British Columbia, Canada. As a sportsman who lived life to the full his ambitions included sampling a range of skiing conditions in different parts of the world. He was a gentleman in all senses of the word. We will always remember him as a quiet but confident person, who cared

for others, who always talked warmly about his family and the need to manage personal and work pressures. He was a successful manager. We regret his passing and the loss of his potential. Our sympathy goes to all his family and friends.

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Top Top-ups

The MBA has offered top-up opportunities to quality Post Graduate Diploma holders. Many students study in Swansea but a number reside in London and make many visits to Swansea for workshops.

Pictured here are a group from CECOS College, who recently graduated, surrounding Dr Glen Jenkins, SBS Research Coordinator.



Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Your Next Step?

We're pleased to announce that the University of Wales Trinity Saint David are currently in the process of developing a professional doctoral programme in business. The DBA is widely recognised as the pinnacle of qualifications in the world of business and management. This DBA programme will be designed

to meet the needs of professionals working in Business Administration and Management related areas in Wales, the UK and Internationally and provides an ideal progression route for those who have studied their MBA with SMU and would like to extend their studies further. If you think you may be interested in

this programme, please register your interest by emailing Dr. Margaret Inman margaret.inman@smu.ac.uk.