

Updates:

Dr Jones Moves On!

Dr Andy Jones, former MBA Dissertation Coordinator, has accepted a post with the central Faculty in the University of Wales. Always driven by his commitment to research and love of travel, Andy will have opportunities to develop new programmes and further his research in this new Faculty. We wish him good fortune and hope to see him soon for collaborations.



Alun Ellis Jones Retires

AE Jones who has worked at SMU for 30 years retired at the end of this August 2011. Alun was a tutor in the earliest days of the MBA teaching Managerial Economics, visiting Finland and China. Latterly his expertise was used in Strategic Management and in particular for Dissertation supervision. Over the years he has supervised over 100 students at this vital final phase of the MBA. We wish him well and will miss him.

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Facebook and LinkedIn sites are in development - as is an MBA section on the main Swansea Metropolitan University Alumni web site.

www.smu.ac.uk

Alternative formats

If you require this document in an alternative format (e.g. Welsh, large print or text file for use with a text reader), please email sbs@smu.ac.uk

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Pictured are Steve, Maggie and Owen

Change of MBA Leaders

After 13 years Steve Griffiths gives up the MBA Director's role to become Head of Collaborative and International Development at Swansea Business School. Owen Lewis, takes on the MBA Directorship, with Dr Maggie Inman as the new Head of Post-graduate and Professional Programmes. All three are experienced MBA tutors, who will continue to teach their specialist areas on all MBA modes.

MBA Alumni Committees

To help organise the MBA Alumni Association of SMU we need to create organising committees. We need volunteers to suggest events or opportunities for networking which will be meaningful to our graduates. Finnish graduates are in the Vanguard. There will be a management workshop in January 2012, and there will need to be a Swansea based committee to organise an event in May 2012. Perhaps we need other country based committees, China, India, Oman, and Libya, to name just some of the catchment countries of MBA classes? So, why not volunteer to be a committee member? Contact us at mbaalumni@smu.ac.uk to express your interest.



SWANSEA METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL FETROPOLITAN ABERTAWE

MBA Network

MBA Alumni
Association
of Swansea Met

Swansea Business School
Winter 2011

Swansea Met MBA Alumni Association Launches



Leigh L. Jenkins

Dean of the Faculty of
Business & Management

Welcome to the Swansea
Business School MBA Alumni
Association. The MBA is now in
its 16th year of operation and
during this time it has grown
exponentially, both in terms of

student numbers and reputation
to the point where it is now,
undoubtedly, one of Swansea
Metropolitan University's
flagship programmes. I am
privileged to have been involved
with the MBA since day one and,
during my first year as Dean of
the new Faculty of Business and
Management in 2010, was part
of the team which delivered a
vibrant and innovative new
portfolio to validation, now with
a range of industry specific
options.

The Alumni Association is the
brainchild of my colleague Steve
Griffiths. I'm sure Steve will be

known to most of you for his
infectious enthusiasm for the MBA,
which he so ably managed for ten
years before passing on the reins
to Owen Lewis and Maggie Inman.
Steve continues to be involved with
the MBA in a lecturing role and
also with marketing the programme
in his new role as Head of
International Development for the
Faculty.

During Steve's tenure the MBA
went from strength to strength and
countless graduates have passed
through the University or its
outreach centre in Hameenlinna,
Finland. Many keep in touch and
we know that their careers have

benefited greatly from their studies
as they hold senior positions in
management and leadership in the
private, public and third sectors
across the world.

Swansea Business School's MBA
Alumni Association, in conjunction
with the University's main Alumni
Association is a way for us all to
keep in touch, share ideas and
experiences and generally enjoy
fellowship. I look forward to
meeting many of you in the
forthcoming events in Swansea and
in Finland.

MBA Finland: The Relationship goes from Strength to Strength

Seppo Nittymäki, MBA co-director, HAMK University of Applied Sciences

It is wonderful to report that the link between HAMK and SMU continues, after 15 years. The MBA market is getting more competitive, but Finnish managers still appreciate having the opportunity to study an MBA from a recognised UK university, which has international currency. MBA recruits now come from all sectors, with a diversity of subject backgrounds. This enhances the discussion in class sessions and tests the theories that are taught. Feedback on the tutors who visit Hameenlinna is always very favourable, so we look forward to continuing to build this excellent partnership.

Pictured Right: MBA group 14, with MBA coordinator, Teija Wiberg at HAMK University of Applied Sciences



Graduate Perspective:



MBA allows Practitioners to Develop Perspective

Trevor Walton, MBA 2005

Completing my MBA in 2005 at the same time as moving to a new organisation and commencing my first Managing Director role in 2003 was fun to say the least and definitely presented a challenge to work/study balance, but I got there! What the whole exercise of taking on a part time MBA programme told me, is that you have to have a goal and end game to keep you moving forward and that it has to have purpose primarily to the individual. For me

as General Manager prior to the commencement of an MBA, it was about formalising my business credentials and adding to them, not so much about career enhancement. In my new role I put into practice many of the theories covered during the MBA programme, which has aided in the continuous growth and security of the business even through the dark times of recession. In Jan 2009, in addition to the Managing Director role I hold for Linde Severnside Ltd (encompassing South Wales and

the Southwest of England), I was asked take over as Managing Director of another group organisation, Linde South East Ltd. Having responsibility for both organisations is stimulating and at times challenging, but both businesses are flourishing in the current market and I have to acknowledge that the way I approach things, methods I adopt and the knowledge I bring to bear are to a notable extent driven by my understanding gained during the MBA.

I am now embarking on another personal journey by commencing a part time Doctorate Programme, but still relish the opportunity to support the SMU as a consultant to the MBA programme and to sit on the SMU MBA Industry Liaison Committee.

As for next career move, who knows, but I'm ready if something comes along!

MBA Finland Visit September 2011

This September, a group of MBA students from Finland about to start their dissertations visited SMU to meet their tutors. Unusually there was some rain, but the sun did come out when the class travelled around the beautiful Gower peninsula. Maggie and Steve had great problems stopping them all diving into the sea! The class is pictured overlooking the cliffs of Rhossili Bay.



MBA Student meets the Prince of Wales!

Nikka Faykissova,
from the Slovak Republic,
Current MBA FT student

I was recently afforded the honour of lunching with HRH the Prince of Wales, who is the Chancellor of the University of Wales, as a representative of SMU. I was very nervous, excited, and delighted at the same time. HRH was very welcoming and took time to make us all feel at ease. The conversation with Prince Charles was very relaxed and enjoyable. He was interested and communicative. He was keen to hear the stories of our experience at the University of Wales and in Wales in general. He was also very entertaining, showing that the Royal family has a good sense of humour. This experience was a great honour, which I will be sharing with my family and friends (certainly even grandchildren, in the future). Today, I have a photo of HRH and me on the wall just above my desk that is delighting and motivating me every day. I wish that everyone would have the possibility to meet HRH the Prince of Wales.

Will the Athens fires spread?



Steve Griffiths,
former MBA Director,
Swansea Business School

While giving a conference paper at a business and technology conference in June in Greece, I was caught in the riots protesting against the austerity programme in Athens' Syntagma Square.

There is a dual crisis facing most of our economies. They are the sovereign debt burden, which resulted from the banking crisis of 2008 and problems of differential growth rates within the Euro zone. Both coincide for the Greek government, which is responding with painful cuts in spending to try to secure loans from lenders. It might be easy for Northern Europeans and the UK, which has not adopted the Euro, to feel that we are immune to these pressures.

However the EU is very integrated. We all have debt problems. The Euro was always going to need to help slower growing economies within the zone to survive. Even the UK will be impacted if Greece is bankrupted or exits the Euro. The likely solutions of writing off debt and giving bail out loans, are tough to accept in the North, but there seems to be little alternative. Whether this solution will stop riots in the other economies, given their policies of making expenditure cuts is debatable. The riots in the UK in August might be seen as a taster. My feeling is that these were not politically coordinated or motivated, other than stimulated by deprivation or criminal intent. They do however show that even the most stable societies have the possibility for major breakdowns given the right stimulus. In Greece the protesters feel betrayed. Perhaps it is summed up by one of the freshly printed T shirts:

'You've had your fun, now go! Vote Ali Baba- he only had 40 thieves'
(Written in October 2012).

Images: some of Steve's shots of his experiences in Athens.

