

MPM Winter Quarter 2008 News

Another quarter has passed; how time flies when you're having fun. Here's hoping that all is well in the lives and careers of all of you who are receiving this Newsletter with all of the latest happenings in the MPM program.

New Graduates

Congratulations to **Yohann Sberro**, who completed his degree in December 2007. We wish him the best of luck in his professional career and personal life.

New Students

We are pleased to welcome **Matthew Huffman**, **Mehmooda Imam**, and **Mark Lomeda** to our MPM program for the 2008 Winter Quarter.

ACEC/MPM Workshop

On June 16 and 17, the American Council of Engineering Companies, in conjunction with our MPM program, will present a workshop entitled "Advanced Project and Program Management for the Engineering and Construction Industry" on the Evanston campus.

Spring Brunch

Our MPM Spring Brunch will be on **Sunday, June 1, 2008**, at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge. Plan ahead and reserve this date on your calendars.

Alum News

Michael Krabacher (MPM 2000) is in Cincinnati, Ohio, working as a deputy program manager in the Wet Weather Improvement Program with the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. The program consists of constructing nearly 300 wastewater treatment and collection projects over a period of 20 years at a cost of around \$1.5 billion.



Sule Oz Oran (MPM 2000) visited us while on a business trip to the United States. After graduation she worked for Power Construction Company as a project engineer for three years, after which time she moved to Minneapolis and worked for McGough Construction Company as a project manager, primarily on health care projects. In 2006 she completed another high quality project by having her son, Can, on time and on budget. In 2006 life circumstances took her back to Istanbul, where she started working for Soyak Construction Company as a project coordinator. Now, two years later, she is embarking on a challenging new career in real estate

development with the Dagus Group Real Estate Development Company. As her career progresses, she graciously acknowledges the important foundation she received in the MPM program and the various opportunities that come with graduation, and she is very grateful to everyone with whom she interacted during her days at Northwestern University for sharing their knowledge and providing the guidance needed to begin her career in an unfamiliar land and now to pursue a career in an area of peripheral interest.

Upon his return to Guatemala in August 2004, **Carlos Colom Bickford** (MPM 2003) started working as a coordinator in the development of three hydroelectric projects for the government. He credits the MPM program for opening a lot of doors for him in Guatemala. Within four months, he was offered the position of General Manager for the entire National Electrification Institute, a state owned company. Over the course of two and a half years, which involved a lot of 12-hour days and overseeing more than 2,000 union employees, Carlos traveled to Europe, the Middle East, Mexico and other Central American countries on business related projects. However, his career took another turn in May 2007, when he was appointed to a five-year term as the electricity sector regulator within the National Commission of Electricity.



Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to **Dani Kempf** (MPM 2006) and her husband, Rick Florczak (a Chicago Firefighter), on the occasion of their wedding on January 25, 2008 at St. Maarten, Virgin Islands. Their wedding reception was on the Adventure of the Seas, a Royal Caribbean cruise ship. The formal prelude to their wedding was a year earlier, when Rick and **Dani** went to St. Maarten for a long weekend. On their second evening at the resort, Rick approached the stage after dinner, took the microphone from the singer, and asked Dani to join him. He then proceeded to get down on one knee and in front of the entire resort asked her to marry him. The band leader invited them to share their first dance as an engaged couple, and they played "Every Breath You Take" by Sting.

Marie Dutilleux (MPM 2006) began working for Accenture in mid January 2008 as a Junior Consultant in the Paris office.



A lot has happened in the life of **Steven Meyer** (MPM 2007) since he graduated last December. In January he and his dad climbed Mount Aconcagua in Argentina. At an elevation of more than 22,000 feet, it is the highest mountain in the Americas and the highest mountain outside of Asia. The trek was three weeks long, and both Steve and his dad successfully summited the mountain, although it was extremely

difficult and only five out of ten in their party made it. After this adventure, he returned to the United States and started working for his dad's company, Shaw Construction, which is based in Colorado. Shaw is a high-end commercial general contractor that works in ski resort areas, such as Aspen, Vail, and Jackson Hole. It also has a homes division that builds high-end custom homes. At present he is the project manager on a \$10 million low-income housing project in Grand Junction, Colorado.



Professional Opportunities

Toll International LLC, a company established by **Nure Aiza** (MPM 1998), is recruiting graduates from the MPM program. Two positions are currently available for a senior project controls specialist to manage Primavera schedules and budgets. The position is located in New York City and the salary is \$80,000 to \$100,000, depending on experience. If interested, please forward your resume to: nure.aiza@tollintl.com

Trends in Construction

At a recent symposium at the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland, David Forrester, President and CEO of Forrester Construction, presented the results of a survey he had taken of the presidents of eighty construction companies to identify the Top Ten Trends in Construction, which are in rank order:

1. LEED/Green Construction
2. Energy Management
3. Shortage of Skilled Labor and Project Managers
4. Commodities and Products: Sourcing and Prices
5. New Technologies (excluding BIM)
6. Government Regulations
7. Increased Claims and Disputes
8. Teams to Deliver Sophisticated Solutions
9. Risk Management and Compensation
10. Building Information Methodology (BIM)