

OPTIONII OPTIONS

The Newsletter of the University of Texas at Austin Option II Executive MBA Association

February, 2002

A New Year with New Visions and Commitments

This Ain't Your Father's Option II Alumni Association!

www.optionii.com

Hello again from your 2002 Option II Board of Directors. I am **Ed Paulson ('90)** and will again be the editor of the Options newsletter, designed to update you on Option II Alumni Association news, the Option II program and other topics.



The Option II program continues to enhance its standing within the UT academic community, demonstrated by Court's promotion and the new fund created in his honor. We alumni are the legacy upon which the current program is based. Congratulate yourselves and then think about the quality of your classmates, instructors and other alumni you met through Option II. It doesn't have to stop with graduation, which is the purpose of the association. Take the time to get involved. The "experience" is only as valuable as you make it.

This year's board is intent on making '02 alumni activities fun, interesting and intellectually stimulating.

Riddle me this: What was the essence of the Option II experience to you?

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Alumni Corral

On a somber note, **George Kolchak ('97)** passed away in January after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Mark Jacks ('90) let me know that **Carlos Henriquez ('97)** did a stint on QVC (the shopping network) hawking Dell computers. He and a co-worker shattered the daily sales record, managing to move ten days worth of product in

about two hours. Rumor has it that Hollywierd has been calling...

Ed Paulson ('90) - yeah me - is out speaking on Cisco Systems' M&A practices based on his new *Inside Cisco* book recently ranked #680 on Amazon.

Ron Nezer ('98) announced the December arrival of a new baby boy. Everyone is doing great.

Debbie Day ('94) and **Robert Floyd ('93)** are the proud December parents of Erin Callie Day Floyd.

Robert Keist ('01) and wife Anna had a baby boy, Michael William, in January.

Tim Wilson ('02) and wife Julie had a baby boy, Carson Baxter, in November. Keep those cards and letters comin'.

Court's Great Day

On Friday, January 25, Associate Dean Philip Zerrillo announced the promotion of C. Court Huber, Ph.D. to Assistant Dean. Dr. Huber has been with Executive Education as the director of Option II since July of 1991.

Dean Zerrillo then announced that, in Dr. Huber's honor, an anonymous donor had donated \$100,000 to establish the C. Court Huber Teaching Excellence Fund for Executive Education. Dean Robert May will match this contribution with \$100,000 from the Red McCombs gift, doubling the endowment to \$200,000. The Huber Teaching Excellence Fund will support areas such as faculty development and research, curriculum and course development, and salary supplements to attract, retain and develop outstanding faculty.

The anonymous donor challenged the Option II alumni and the McCombs School community to raise an additional \$100,000 or more. Dean May agreed to match the first \$100,000 raised by the alumni in this challenge. If our alumni can successfully meet this challenge, the result will be a \$400,000 excellence fund in Court's honor. This would not only forever recognize his commitment to teaching but also create a lasting resource for Option II and Executive Education at the McCombs School.

Those wanting to contribute to the C. Court Huber Teaching Excellence Fund for Executive Education can send their gift to the Red McCombs School of Business, Attn: Sandy Dorman, Director of Individual Giving and Endowments, GSB 5.175, Austin, Texas 78712. For more information about this fund, please contact Sandy at (512) 475-8179 or sandy.dorman@bus.utexas.edu.

First '02 Board Meeting

The First 2002 Board of Directors meeting was held Saturday, January 26, on the UT Campus. The agenda included a review of last year's events and determination of a topic for the '02 Fall Business Seminar, scheduled for Friday, September 27, 2002. Given the current state of societal flux, we all felt that a detailed look at the topic of Risk was appropriate. We are now evaluating speakers, professors and detailed topics to make the day as valuable as possible. If you have risk-related topic or speaker suggestions, please email me and I will get them to the board. Mark your calendars. This is one session you don't want to *risk* missing.

Upcoming Regional Events

Austin: Please bring guests and family. Events are free unless noted otherwise. This is an opportunity to network and catch up. Call up a friend from your group or class that you have not seen in a while. **OIIuesday Happy Hour, Dog and Duck, Tuesday March 12th – 6pm, Tuesday May 14th – 6pm. Round Rock Express vs. Wichita Wranglers, only 60 tickets, May 7th at 7pm.** Contact Jose Chacon (00) chaconjw@hotmail.com for tickets and additional information. More to come. Look for details in future newsletters.

San Antonio Area: Ongoing events. Please contact Jeff Dahl (98) at (210) 527-0900 or jdahl@hldlaw.com.

Dallas Area: Ongoing events. Please contact Christopher Plummer (01) christopherp@prodigy.net

Houston Area March 28th Event - Option II sday and Discussion With Court Huber

Thursday, March 28th, 2002, 6:30 - 9 PM, Ruggles Grill at Enron Field (Texas & Crawford, Downtown Houston). 6:30 – 7:30pm Appetizers & Cash Bar, 7:30-7:50 OII Discussion for Potential Recruits, 7:50-9:00 Court Huber: The Media Coverage of Enron: How Should Professional Managers Respond? RSVP to Grant Haddix (99) (via e-mail reply, grant.haddix@shell.com) by March 8th. Send \$25 check made out to: Walter Guidroz (00) (Houston Area OII Alumni Board Treasurer) Address: 243 Litchfield Ln, Houston, TX 77024. The \$25 covers fees for the speaker, using the restaurant, and appetizers. Dinner is not covered and there is no obligation to eat dinner at Ruggles. We will accept \$25 at the door, but please try to plan ahead (ie. RSVP and send check by March 8th). Invite co-workers, bosses, friends and family members to attend. They are all welcome to participate. Just let us know.

Bob Mettlen On The Post 9/11 Economy (continued)

What is the most appropriate fiscal policy changes we should seek to deal with what clearly is a serious recession that extends well beyond our borders?

By the time these words are read, we shall probably know much more about how the wrangling and in-fighting on Capitol Hill and in the White House on the stimulus package was resolved. In this area my skepticism gets a boost. The odds are very high that whatever is done will be the wrong amounts that take effect at the wrong times.

(Remember the lags that afflict changes in macro-policy.) I remain a believer in the proposition that economic systems do enjoy built-in market mechanisms that push performance back toward full employment. And while the American consumer is currently displaying considerable (and understandable) caution in his behavior, I can find no evidence that our appetite for the “good life” and the goods and services that help define it has suffered any long-term reduction. I look for 2002, especially its second half, to be a pretty good year.

Survey Results: Bob looks more like Dan Rather. Go figure!



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