

OPTIONALS

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

March, 2001

A New Year. A New Crew. New Goals

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

A Note From Your New Editor and Board Members

Welcome to a new Option II alumni organizational year. My name is Ed Paulson (1990) and I am your newsletter editor for 2001. Did you know that there



are 924 Option II graduates at this point? Did you know that 86% of us are in Texas, 12.9% of us live in 35 other states and that 1.2% of us live in other world areas such as Africa or Australia? Pretty cool, I thought.

Kandace Tornquist, this year's association president, is a dynamic person who has a vision for all Option II alumni. She wants to see the association become a communication point whereby we share not only a common past but also a supportive future. We have pulled together before and can again make this association truly exceptional. Why not have us all benefit a little from the collective intelligence of our alumni?

But, if you do not participate we cannot improve the value of this publication or the other Option II Alumni activities. Please take the time now and throughout the year to communicate with me regarding your activities, whether Option II related or not. The next time that you are online, stop by the Option II Web Site: www.optionii.com.

We started out this year with a brief interview with Court Huber regarding his latest activities. Thank you Alan Andon (1994) and Court.

What other topics are of interest to you? Would you like to hear Bob Mettlen's thoughts about the likelihood of a recession? What about Ramesh Rao's thoughts regarding corporate financial

management in the upcoming economic environment? Any other ideas?

Are you getting my point? The collegiality that we shared in class doesn't have to end when we graduate. The Option II Alumni Association is a tool for continuing that dialog. The fall seminar is a way to hone your skills and see classmates. With your help we can make your Option II affiliation more valuable as time goes on. Let me know your thoughts, ideas and questions. I will make sure that they get to the other board members. Help us to make our association as valuable as possible.

Email: author@edpaulson.com
Phone: 630-960-3299

Option II sdays

Get it? A pun on Tuesdays? You know, Monday, Tuesday...

Thanks to the creative passions of the Houston regional group, Option II sdays were born. We are now looking to have the concept spread to other regions.

Here is the basic idea: Each regional group plans those quarterly or monthly activities that fit the needs and interests of local alumni. These activities should occur on the second Tuesday of a month with the goal being to have at least one alumni event each quarter. Look for announcements regarding regional activities planned in your area. Traveling alumni can then visit Tuesday events happening in other cities.

Let Ed Paulson know about your planned events so that they can be included in the newsletter. (author@edpaulson.com) Take a look later at what Houston has going on!

Fall Business Seminar

The Strategy of the Partnership

Friday, September 21, 2001

8AM - 5 PM

Joe C. Thompson Conference Center on the University of Texas campus

Speakers and activities are set to visit the strategic considerations and the critical roles in the development of partnerships that prevail throughout the many facets of corporate life—people, finance, channel opportunities, community, and resources.

Date Change

In the past the seminar has coincided with the first weekend of class, and added to the excitement, and some would say, the turmoil, of the return to campus for the Option II classes. Scheduling the event for the second weekend sets a better pace for all the participants, especially the Option II staff who can now participate more fully in the alumni activities.

Another Change

The events will be expanded through Sunday, creating a reunion weekend that will hopefully entice more alumni to return.

Many traditional events will remain on the schedule: the gathering on Thursday evening, the seminar and the cocktail party on Friday, and the Saturday golf tournament. On Saturday we will add other campus activities and a dinner for all alumni. A block of hotel rooms will be reserved. And, the 10 year reunion activities will be expanded: this year we recognize the Class of 1991!

Mark your calendars for Option II Revisited September 21-23, 2001.

Details in the mail soon!

A Brief Interview With Court Huber

Q: What do you think about the California energy crisis?

I find the manner in which the California energy crisis is presented by the media to be potentially dangerous.

A: My concern is that this instance of misregulation in California will be held up as an example of failed deregulation and hence be used to bolster the argument to slow or stop deregulation throughout our economy. The current energy crisis in California is the direct result of regulator missteps and not the results of unrestrained market forces. The capping of residential electric rates, preventing utilities from entering into long-term contracts with electric suppliers and making it difficult to build power plants are the roots of California's energy problems, not deregulation.



Houston Area March 13th Event and Other Activities

There are roughly 140 Option II alumni in the Houston area. We are planning on arranging events for Houston Area OII Alumni approximately once per quarter, so watch your e-mail and spread the word. The purpose of these events is intellectual stimulation, networking, and recruiting. We will begin advertising about one month prior to the event. Also, everybody pitch in and help us keep e-mail addresses and phone numbers up to date by providing information to the OII office and also to Grant Haddix at (281) 395-0159 or gwhaddix@shellus.com.

What: Option II day and Discussion With Court Huber Regarding Managing In the New Economy

When: Tuesday March 13, 2001, 7 to 9 PM

Where: Ruggles Grill at Enron Field (Texas & Crawford, Downtown Houston)

Agenda: 7:00 to 7:30: Appetizers and Cash Bar

7:30 to 7:45: Houston Alumni Events Discussion (Curtis Bissonette)

7:45 to 9:00: Court Huber, Managing in the New Economy (accounting strategy etc.)

To Attend: RSVP to Grant Haddix (via e-mail reply, ghaddix@aol.com) by March 7

Send \$20 check made out to: Walter Guidroz Address: 243 Litchfield Ln, Houston, TX 77024

The \$20 covers fees for using the restaurant and appetizers. Dinner is not covered and there is no obligation to eat dinner at Ruggles, although this should be a great opportunity to refresh old connections over a late dinner. We will accept \$20 at the door, but please try to plan ahead (i.e. RSVP and send check by March 7). ps\Walter is the Houston area treasurer.



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