



OPTIONS

April 2006

Web: www.optionii.com

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Save the Date!

**Next Option II Business Seminar:
February 9, 2007**

Mark your calendars now! The next Option II Business Seminar presented by the UT Executive MBA Association will be February 9, 2007. Stay tuned for details over the next several months. The Board has received feedback over the past two years that the traditional September timing of the Business Seminar is a challenging time of year for several reasons: children returning to school, business planning and budgeting cycles, and the immediacy of Q4 business demands. In response to this feedback, we will shift the Business Seminar to the spring semester. Planning for the 2007 Business Seminar is in progress, and alumni who wish to join the Seminar Committee to help with planning for the February 2007 seminar should send an email to optionii@gmail.com, attention: Andrea Scott.

Letter from the President: Greetings, Colleagues!

(Stephanie Andrews, Class of 2003)

It's a pleasure to be addressing you as the new Board President of the UT Executive MBA Association. As a 2003 graduate, I am delighted to continue my association with UT and the Option II program. I served on the Board for the last few years as the San Antonio Regional Representative and appreciate the opportunity to step up to additional challenges in this new role.

I'm also extremely pleased to introduce to you the 2006-7 Board. You'll see the full listing of Board Members on page 3. With representatives from as early as the Class of 1983 to as recent as 2005, the Board is full of enthusiastic and talented people, veterans and rookies alike. I appreciate all of you who answered the call for interested members to serve on the Board. And, for those

of you who just couldn't commit to Board membership now, I hope you'll join us for events in Austin and in your region in the year ahead.

At our first meeting in February 2006, the Board reviewed the original Charter of our organization. I thought you might be interested in the goals set forth at the Alumni Association's formation in 1992. The Charter reads, in part, as follows:

"Established to affiliate the Alumni of the Option II MBA Program into a potent network of highly supportive interdependent professionals.

- To strengthen the Alumni network
- To serve as a forum for continuous education
- To provide career development support

- To assist in recruiting high-caliber participants
- To assist participants in completing the Program
- To support continuous improvement in the Program
- To help Alumni in maintaining a relationship with The University of Texas and the Program faculty and administration"

Through those seven bullets I see tremendous opportunity. I hope you'll continue your association or reestablish connections through the Alumni organization. Regional events and the Spring Business Seminar (February 9, 2007) are excellent occasions for networking and continuing education.

I'll close with one other reminder. Membership in this organization is automatic and dues are optional. However, your voluntary

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Email: Is It From The Program Or The Association?

Have you been receiving our communications via email? Emails sent from the Texas Executive MBA Program (Option II) office will have the display name "Texas Executive MBA (Option II)" in the "From" field. Emails

sent from the Executive MBA Association (the alumni organization) will have the display name "EMBA Association" in the "From" field. Regional representatives from the Alumni Association will email infor-

mation to you from time to time regarding regional events using this latter alias. Please go online to update and/or verify your email address at <https://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MOR> so that we can keep you in-the-know.

Networking: "O2O"

(by Kandace Tornquist, Class of 1991)

In the spirit of "B2B" and "B2C", "O2O" stands for "Option II to Option II" and refers to events and information to assist Option II alumni to meet and network with current students and other alumni, specifically to expand your network and create busi-

ness opportunities with Option II contacts beyond your study group or Class.

What is 'being intentional about networking' about? It is no one thing. It is about engaging people to network. It is about giving each other permission to contact a fellow graduate or a current student - to meet for coffee or discuss a business issue. It is about bringing together alumni in the same industry or same profession to build professional contacts, as well as brainstorm solutions to business issues. It is about ensuring that the business seminar is not just information download from experts, but also engaging and talking with

the experts invited to speak to us. It is about adopting the Option II online directory as a valuable tool for connecting and collaborating. It may be a small thing or a big event. For sure, O2O will include a regular networking tip that will appear in all Option II newsletters.

What do you want it to be? In what ways do you wish the alumni network could work better for you? Share your ideas with the Board at optionii@gmail.com. And watch for 'O2O' - your Option II connection.

O2O Tip #1

For years, current class members have been hands off:

full business, family, study and class schedules have suggested that alumni should wait until graduation to make contact with recent grads rather than with current students. We were wrong. Current class members have asked to meet alumni during the program - sooner rather than later. For starters, introduce yourself to one of the soon-to-graduate Class of 2006. Fifteen minutes, a cup of coffee, introductions, shared Option II experiences, business interests and adventures, community passions. A small investment of time may yield unexpected future potential. You will find alumni names and contact information online at <https://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MOR>

Alumni & Student News

Please send an email to: Jake@BalanceVentures.com if you have an article to contribute to the Newsletter, a suggestion for improvement, or a personal update to share with the Option II Community.

Letter From the President

(Continued from page 1)

contributions (dues) fund the activities and communication of your Alumni Association. Please take a moment now to go to the website and renew your membership for 2006. Payments are easy at www.optionii.com. For information about paying by check, email the Board at optionii@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with the new Board in 2006 and to seeing many of you throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Andrews ('03)



Regional Alumni Updates

Austin: The new Austin rep, Heather Bailey, would love to organize a gathering of Austin grads monthly or every other month to catch up and network. If anyone is interested, please contact Heather at (512) 461-4518 (mobile) or hbailey2@austin.rr.com.

Dallas: Raj Menon ('00) and Thomas Cademartori ('00) attended a recent Dallas Texas Exes - Longhorn Business Conference on March 3rd along with more than 100 other UT alumni. Got info about Dallas? Share it with us! Send Dallas alumni updates to optionii@gmail.com.

Houston: About a dozen Houston Option II alumni attended John Doggett's talk on energy hosted by the McCombs Alumni Association on March 8th at The

Houstonian. Houston alumni plan to arrange gatherings in the near future for annual new student welcome parties, local seminars, and creating opportunities for meaningful fellowship with Houston by engaging our minds on relevant and valuable business topics. Contact David Taylor (David.R.Taylor@hp.com) for more info.

San Antonio: Alumni are meeting periodically for lunch at Zio's on IH-10 to network and stay in touch. Contact Vid Desibhatla ('05) (vid.desibhatla@gmail.com) for more info.

Other Regions?: If your area is not represented here, contact Jake Gray ('02) at Jake@BalanceVentures.com with any info or updates for your region for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Class Reunions Wrap-Up

(by Tiana Scruggs)

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita nearly cancelled reunion plans altogether - six 1985 graduates weathered the trip and attended a luncheon in their honor with guest speaker, Dr. Eli Cox, former director of the Option II Program.

Dr. Jim and Mrs. Kakky Dyer hosted at their home the reunion party for Class of 1985 alumni Randy Beck, Jack Cartwright, Kakky Dyer, Larry Gawlik, Gary Montgomery, Donna Prestwood, and Rand Turner. Special guests included Dr. Gary Cadenhead, Dr. Tim Ruefli, and Dr. Eli Cox. Spouses and alumni all had a wonderful, relaxing time in spite of the warnings of Rita's arrival the next day. Many thanks to

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2006-2007 Alumni Association Board

President	Stephanie Andrews ('03)
Secretary	Kathy Crosby ('01)
Treasurer	Bill Atwood ('83)
Seminar Director	Andrea Scott ('03)
Membership Director	Mike ThomasClarke ('00)
Marketing Director	Azucena Overman ('01)
Technology Director	David Miller ('00)
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Networking Project	Kandace Tornquist ('91)
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Dallas Rep	Position Open
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San Antonio Rep	Lisa Ebrom ('04)
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Reunion Rep - 10 year ('97)	Paul Senecal ('97)
Reunion Rep - 20 year ('86)	Position Open
Reunion Rep - 20 year ('87)	Position Open
At Large	Wade Allen ('90)
At Large	Heather Ball ('04)
At Large	Vid Desibhatla ('05)
At Large	Carolyn Faeth ('05)
At Large	Richard Hansen ('94)
At Large	Tom Heyer ('02)
At Large	Raj Menon ('00)
At Large	Laura Rice ('05)
At Large	Jerri Saunders ('01)
At Large	Van Williams ('94)

Contact the Alumni Board at optionii@gmail.com with suggestions or questions or to volunteer your time to help build your Alumni Association.

McCombs Online Resources (MOR)

Need to update your contact information? Looking for a classmate? Want to find Option II graduates who work in your company? You can do all this and more at the McCombs Online Resources (Alumni Directory) website at <https://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MOR>. Click on "Alumni Login". For assistance, contact Teresa Phillips at (512) 475-6435 or teresa.phillips@mcombs.utexas.edu.



Recap: Spring Forward Thinking Event January 2006

When bad luck turns into good fortune: Hurricane Rita stormed through the Gulf Coast last fall, diverting Red McCombs's attention to crisis management, away from speaking at the 2005 Fall Business Seminar. Although he sent his business assistant to speak in his place, Mr. McCombs also generously agreed to personally address Option II alumni at a later date.

The Board took advantage of his offer to launch the first Spring Forward Thinking Event, a perfect segue from a fall to a spring alumni event. This inaugural spring event commingled Option II alumni with current students for a Friday Distinguished Speaker lunch, where Red McCombs shared funny and poignant stories of business decisions, business philosophy, realized and unrealized dreams, and early lessons in entrepreneur-

ship and negotiation.

After lunch, Dr. Michael Granof led a lively discussion, titled "After the Fall: Has anything really changed since Enron - Has Sarbanes-Oxley had an impact, or are the fundamental problems still there?" The discussion allowed alumni an opportunity to meet Dr. Granof, who teaches Financial Accounting to Option II first year students and has gotten rave reviews.

Staff from the McCombs Communication Department who were present for the McCombs luncheon and Granof presentation wrote articles on each event. These articles were sent to alumni in the McCombs monthly email newsletter and are posted on the McCombs website at: www.mcombs.utexas.edu/news/pressreleases/redmcombs06.asp and www.mcombs.utexas.edu/news/pressreleases/granof06.asp.

REMEMBER...Save The Date For The Next Option II Business Seminar & Alumni Class Reunions on: February 9, 2007

All Alumni Welcome at the
Next Board Meeting:

April 22, 2006, 12:30-3:30pm
(@ UT, MSB Conf. Room 6.420)

Class Reunions Wrap-Up, cont'd.

(Continued from page 2)

the Dyers for hosting a terrific party!

The Class of 1995 postponed their reunion party from Sept. 24 to Dec. 10 because of Hurricane Rita, and enjoyed their holiday event in dressy business attire at the River Place Country Club in north Austin. It was a festive evening of food, good company and reminiscing. Class of 1995 alumni who made it: Kerry Grimes, Margo Bart, David Eaton, Ted Brown, Ray Adams, Bob Pearson, Mike Paczan, Subu Subramanian, Mike Goddard, Muzzi Palmieri, Rose Davis, Carol Cabbiness, and Kathy Johnson. Special guests included alumni spouses, Tiana Scruggs, and Dr. Court Huber. Thanks to committee members Michael Thorne, Kerry Grimes, Ted Brown, Margo Bart, David Eaton, and Ray Brown who coordinated

these two reunion events on different dates from various locations around the country. Thank you to Kerry Grimes, who had the connections!



FUTURE REUNIONS NOTE: The annual Option II Alumni Seminar will be in the spring each year (no fall dates anymore), starting in February 2007. Consequently, the alumni association will host five reunions in 2007:

20-year: Classes of 1986 & 1987
10-year: Classes of 1996 & 1997
1-year: Class of 2006

Paul Senecal (96) and Donna Obermaier-Wilkins (97) volunteered to take the lead for the 10-year reunion. Class reps will be working with Tiana Scruggs and Andrea Scott to make these truly memorable events. We encourage all of the classes to plan their reunion parties for the weekend of February 9, 2007 to coincide with the annual seminar.

More information will be coming soon. If you graduated in 1986 or 1987 and would like to help with planning your 20-year class reunion, or you graduate in 2006 and want to help plan the first reunion for your class, please contact Tiana Scruggs (tnscruggscmp@yahoo.com).

UT Executive MBA Association
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