

OPTION II

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

April, 2002

Spring Is Sprung, The Grass Is Riz...

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

www.optionii.com

Spring is here and Option II activities are blooming all over Texas. I am happy to report, the turnout at the events is increasing with feedback being positive. I am **Ed Paulson ('90)** your continuing newsletter editor and on behalf of the board, I thank you for becoming more involved, making the association more valuable for all concerned.



Court's recent talk in Houston about Enron media coverage and ways that managers can respond drew 80 people! The turnout was great and the topic was well received. Court will be presenting this same topic in Austin as is shown in the upcoming events section later in the newsletter.

We are working diligently to make the association more valuable and timely to its members as is indicated by the ongoing regional events and the great fall seminar currently being finalized.

Remember: Option II was not only about sitting through lectures and taking tests, it was also about learning from fellow students. The association is a way to continue that process.

Prior Edition Riddle Answer: Nothing. Nobody responded. Hmmm. Was that really the Option II experience for you?

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Alumni Corral

Update on the passing of **George Kolchak ('97)** after a courageous battle with cancer. Donations can be made "In Memory of George Kolchak", American

Cancer Society, PO Box 149100, Austin, TX 78714. His family will be notified of any donations made on George's behalf to this worthy organization whose purpose is the elimination of this terrible disease.

Roy Longoria ('99) has landed a new job as an Investment Representative with Edward Jones in Austin. Congrats!

Jerry Barrett ('91) won the Pro-Am Male Adult Novice division of the December, 2001 Fun Country Finals Country Western Dance competition in Oklahoma City. He danced with his instructor and must have cut quite a rug. He also became a grandfather (sigh) for the first time in February, 2002 when his grandson, George, graced our world for the first time.

Chris Phelps ('01) had his second daughter, Isabella, in February of 2002.

Apolak Borthakur ('01) also announced the birth of a son, Eeshan, also in February, 2002.

These two births, and their timing, prompted **Tiana** to do a little monthly math. Let's see: February 2002 minus 9 months = May, 2001. Hmmm... It appears that the 2001 London trip or shortly thereafter may have been productive in more ways than one. ☺

Aaron Roberts ('01) just opened a Breakfast Kolache restaurant in Dallas on the corner of Frankford and Marsh. Free breakfast on Aaron for any Option II'er who stops by and lets him know that you are an Option II alumni. He claims to have the best Kolaches, Sausage and Cinnamon Rolls in the

Metroplex. Free, great food with an Option II twist. Sounds good to me!

Fall Seminar Preview

The Fall Seminar, September 27th at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, is coming together and the results look to be spectacular.

"Corporate Risk Management"

Beyond security and terrorism, all of business is stepping out on a limb. Introducing a new product, opening a new overseas office, spinning off or merging business units. Today's business sees Risk as inherent and increasingly important to every phase of business operation. The seminar examines three types of risk: financial, strategic, and human capital along with the rising of the CRO (Chief Risk Officer) and Enterprise Risk Management.

Four speakers are confirmed with two others planned. Confirmed speakers include:

- > **Dale Klein, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense** (Washington, DC) on "Bioterrorism and International Relations"
- > **Jim Dyer**, on "Real Options: Valuing Risky Decisions"
- > **Jay Koehler, PhD, UT/Austin**: "Psychological Influences on Risky Business Decisions."
- > **Sayling Wen, Vice Chairman, Inventec Corporation** (Taiwan), on "International Capital Market Risk"

Thursday night, Sept 26: Fireside Chat with Court Huber. Saturday, Sept 28: Golf Tournament. Detailed seminar brochures will be mailed mid June..

Upcoming Regional Events

Austin Area June 11th Event – Option II sday and Discussion With Court Huber: Tuesday, June 11th, 2002, 6:00 – 8:30PM, Commons Building of the JJ Pickle Research Center on Burnet Road. 6:00 – 6:45pm Appetizers & Cash Bar, 6:45-8PM Court Huber: The Media Coverage of Enron: How Should Professional Managers Respond? 8-8:30 Q&A. RSVP to **Kathy Crosby ('01)** (via e-mail reply, kathy@furbrain.com) by May 24th. The \$25 pre-paid (\$30 at the door) covers fees for the speaker, using the restaurant, and appetizers. We will accept \$30 at the door, but please try to plan ahead (ie. RSVP and send check by May 24th). Spouses and potential OII Program candidates attend for free. Kathy will be sending an email with maps and additional information. This event was really well received in Houston. Don't miss it.

San Antonio Area: Tuesday, May 14th, 6PM at Chris Madrid's, near Blanco Road, near Hildebrand. Please contact **Jeff Dahl ('98)** at (210) 527-0900 or jdahl@hldlaw.com.

Dallas Area: Tuesday, April 30th, 7PM, Nuevo Leon restaurant (3211 Oak Lawn Ave., Dallas, 214-522-3331). \$25 includes GREAT! food including appetizers, soft drinks, full entrée and desert. Tuesday, June 11th Welcome Party for the new Alumni in the Dallas area with a presentation by Court Huber. Monday, August 5th, Welcome the Class of 2004 at an informal buffet. Mark your calendars and please contact **Christopher Plummer ('01)** christopherp@prodigy.net for additional information.

Houston Area June 18th Event - Option II sday and Discussion With Steve Tomlinson

Tuesday, June 18, 2002, 6:30 - 9 PM, Ruggles Cafe at Union Station (next to Enron Field, 501 Crawford, downtown Houston). 6:30 – 7:15pm Appetizers & Cash Bar, 7:15-7:30 OII Discussion for Potential Recruits (who get in for free), 7:30-9:00 Steve Tomlinson, Commerce and Community. RSVP to **Grant Haddix ('99)** (via e-mail reply, grant.haddix@shell.com) by June 1. 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 June 1). Invite co-workers, bosses, friends and family members to attend. They are all welcome to participate. Just let us know.

Some Thoughts On Risk

“When in doubt, make a fool of yourself. There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative and acting like the most gigantic idiot on Earth. So, what the hell. Leap.” Cynthia Heimel, “Lower Manhattan Survival Tactics”

“Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic.” Anonymous

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