

OPTION II OPTIONS

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

September, 2001

Seminar Time Is Almost Here ... Don't Miss It!

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

www.optionii.com

Hello again from me, Ed Paulson, and your other Option II Board of Directors. Summer is over and it is now time to get back to work. OK. Let's not make the transition too abrupt as this may be detrimental to the psyche. Why not, instead, take a day to



inspire your mind while also getting together with friends and colleagues? In other words, why not take out a day to attend the fall seminar and then, even better, attend the weekend events as well.

This issue is primarily dedicated to the fall seminar with the clear, unabashed goal, of getting you to attend. I have attended a number of them over the years, including one early on that I spoke at, and have always felt that the time invested was well returned. If you walk away with one idea, thought or inspiration from the day that you incorporate into your life, the day is time well spent. And, I assert to you, will happen if you do two things: 1) show up and 2) open yourself up to the change.

You can register from the Web site (www.optionii.com) or by other ways that will be outlined later in this issue of the newsletter. Please take a few minutes to review the topics, think about how much it would mean to catch up with old friends while also learning something. And then take the few steps needed to block out the time, enroll and then attend. I did everyone a favor and skipped the golf game, but will attend the seminar and then the Saturday evening dinner. See you there.

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Alumni Corral

Jerry Barrett ('91) is still at IBM finishing up 31 years at this point, doing project management and hardware development on the pSeries (RS/6000). He calculates this as 60% of his life being spent with IBM! (Engineers. Always have to reduce it to numbers. ☺)

For fun, he has spent the last three years seriously competing in Country, Western and Swing dancing contests, mostly in Texas. As if that isn't enough, he is also the President of board of a fitness camp for adults in the Davis Mountains of West Texas. "This is no fat farm, but is for people seriously into running, biking, and swimming," he says.

He spends the rest of his time with family and friends, some of which are from OptionII. "I really enjoy the annual seminar and our class party that Friday night." Couldn't have said it better myself. Hint. Hint.

Greg Crouch ('90) and his wife Kay are doing well with their environmental consulting business, continuing to win interesting and profitable projects nationwide and in Mexico. Check this out. They have this year been to Italy (3 times), Mexico, Ireland, and other vacation spots around this U.S. Two years ago, they purchased a "small" (43-acre) ranch about 45 minutes north of Austin with a half mile of frontage on the Lampasas River, and hope to build a house there soon. In the meantime they are living in Houston, close to their clients. I always knew Greg was a guy I could learn from, and here's the proof!

On a more somber note, Greg let me know that one of our classmates, **Rick Williams ('90)** passed away unexpectedly this summer. Rick was working for Dell at the time and had over 1,000 people attend his funeral service. Rick and his wife had three daughters, two of whom are in college. He was a great guy that we all cared for very much. He will be missed.

Jim Pepitone ('90) contacted me to update on what is going on in his life, and, as usual, Jim is overachieving the rest of us into submission. Two books now under his belt, his consulting practice which he started in 1978 continues, though the focus has sharpened recently to specialize in the performance and productivity of knowledge and service work(ers) (aka, situations where people are "the means of production" and make the difference in value creation.) His Web site, (pepitone.com) will have updated information on it in the next 45-60 days. This must have been the old-timers' issue since most of the feedback came from those graduating in the early 90's. Let me know what is happening with the rest of you for future issues. Thanks.

Special Seminar
& Board Election
Details
Included
Inside.



Option II Top Ten

Top Ten reasons to attend the seminar and remain involved with Option II:

- 1) Keep your thinking fresh.
- 2) Proof you can count to two.
- 3) Expand your personal network.
- 4) Bond with fellow masochists.
- 5) Sounding board for new ideas or investments.
- 6) Move past "laid off" mentality.
- 7) Relish the great alumni center cuisine, and more relish helps!
- 8) Remember why you took Option II in the first place.
- 9) Rekindle that pride of completion that comes from being an Option II graduate, who actually finished.
- 10) Share your experience with other, talented, accomplished people.

OK. A few of these were questionable, but you have to admit, the relish part is true. Seriously, now, where else can you get challenged by people you respect and with whom you share a common bond of excellence? Not many. Don't underestimate what it can mean to you and others.

Where To Stay

These hotels offer special per night rates for Fall Seminar attendees. Call number listed & request the "UT Option II" rate.

Barton Creek Resort	512.329.4000	\$200
Club Hotel by Doubletree	800.222.TREE	\$89
Day's Inn	800.725.ROOM	\$65
Hampton Inn	800.HAMPTON	\$84
Hawthorn Suites	800.527.1133	\$55
Homewood Suites	800.HAMPTON	\$119
Hyatt	800.233.1234	\$124
La Quinta	800.531.5900	\$59-\$65
Marriott Courtyard North	800.321.2211	\$89
Marriott Fairfield Inn	512.302.5550	\$79
Radisson	800.333.3333	\$139-\$179
Wellesley Inn & Suites	512.326.0100	\$49/\$59

The Seminar Topic

Strategic Collaboration – Partnering with Purpose

The value in today's digital economy of partnerships, alliances and collaboration cannot be overemphasized. I (Ed) am teaching a digital economy organizational management class for DePaul University here in Chicago, and am constantly amazed at how my own historical business experience shades my approach to the digital-based business. This seminar presents key legal, procedural and philosophical topics that help you avoid making costly mistakes.

The Seminar Speakers

Betty Otter-Nickerson

CEO, Elegiant, Inc. and MBA, Option II (1991) www.elegiant.com
> Discussing the role of partnerships in building international organizations and start-up firms in today's economy

David Jemison, PhD

The Foster Parker Centennial Professor of Finance and Management, UT/Austin www.utexas.edu
> Discussing in part his current research in strategic partnerships: business combination as a vehicle for strategic renewal and how firms learn from their combined activities

Robert W. Dupuy

Senior Partner, Brown McCarroll, LLP, Dallas, TX www.brownmccarroll.com
> The legal environment for partnerships, with special focus on virtual organizations and e-partnerships

Mr. Steve Basile

Business Consultant, Workplace Diversity
> The strength of diversified workplaces for employee development and corporate success

...and more

The Weekend Flow

The Gathering

Thursday, September 20, 6-9PM

Get a jump on the weekend. Meet other alumni and friends at Speak Easy (412 Congress, Austin) to set the stage for two days of camaraderie and great thinking. Cash bar.

The Seminar

Friday, September 21, 8:30AM—5PM
Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, UT/Austin Campus.
Lunch with Classes of 2002 and 2003 at the Alumni Center, with special ten-year homecoming recognition of the Class of 1991.

Cocktails and Class Parties

Friday, September 21, 5-7 PM

Join the Option II faculty and staff in welcoming the Class of 2003 at the traditional cocktail party. UT Alumni Center.
RSVP directly to the Option II Office or through www.optionii.com.

Afterwards, individual classes will gather to continue the celebration. Special party for the Class of 1991 celebrating its ten-year anniversary. Details mailed directly to the Class of 1991.

Golf

Saturday, September 22.

Best Ball (scramble) Tournament.

Shotgun start at 9AM at Forest Creek Golf Club in Round Rock (a soft spike facility). Golf fee includes green fees, cart, range balls, and prize packages for participants. \$70

Dinner at Barton Creek

Saturday, September 22, 7-10PM

Casual dining and dancing under the stars. Barton Creek Resort, poolside. Hosted by the Association's Austin Region. \$35 per person.

Option II Alumni Association Board

Leadership Positions To Be Filled

Make a difference today!
**No previous Board experience
required.**



Each fall, the Board nominates individuals to serve in leadership roles for the coming year, calendar 2002 for those of you who are fiscally impaired. Some people will be asked but you are strongly encouraged to contact us on your own if you want to have a say in how the association is operated. After all, it is your association as well as the board members'.

Briefly, the positions to be filled:

President – preside at all meetings of the association and board of directors; responsible for administration of the association programs and goals.

Secretary – prepare and maintain official records of all association and board of director meetings.

Newsletter Editor – prepare and mail periodic newsletter to all association members (Thanks to Ed Paulson, who will serve in this role again in 2002!)

Treasurer – act as controller of association funds

Regional/Class Representatives – coordinate and host regional social activities to encourage alumni networking and association membership. Needed for Houston, Austin, Dallas/Ft.Worth, San Antonio, and At-Large Class Reps – plan and coordinate any class activities and assist regional

reps in planning and coordinating regional and/or class activities.

Seminar Coordinator – plan and promote the annual fall business seminar.

Here are some additional details:

- 1) You will be asked to serve for one calendar year.
- 2) You will be asked to attend the four Saturday meetings that are scheduled in Austin. Transportation to/from Austin is paid by the association. The first is a full day session planning goals and activities for the year; the others are typically Saturday morning half-day sessions.
- 3) Most importantly, you will be given a great opportunity to play a key role in the continuing development of the Option II program.
- 4) Regional and class reps have great excuses to stay in touch with area alumni and former classmates.
- 5) Equally important, and on a more personal level, business partnerships have been created and consulting projects negotiated; new jobs have been secured. Certainly, business and personal friendships have been forged. There has even been a wedding or two!

Having made the investment in time and personal resources to complete the Option II program, association board members continue to leverage that investment through networking with other graduates, continuing relationships with Option II faculty and staff, and assisting new students. Acting as a bridge between alumni and the Option II office, communication support and information strategies are reinforced.

Individuals currently in these roles will continue as mentors to new board members.

If asked, we encourage you to say, "Yes."
If a role sparks your interest, contact

**Roy Longoria ('99) at
roy.longoria@juno.com** who will
provide more information and
encouragement.

E-mail/Lotus Notes Changes for Option II Alumni

The Option II MBA program has set up an OPII email address for every person (faculty, staff, students and alumni) that has participated in the program. Currently the address format is lharp@optionii.bus.utexas.edu (lharp is the short name: first letter of first name and entire last name). When the short name would be the same for two or more people, the middle initial is used. This information can be seen in the OPII Directory at <http://coltrane.bus.utexas.edu>. The username to log in the Directory is the same as your short name.

Lotus Notes was installed in 1993. Classes prior to 1993 do not have mail files on UT servers; instead, email is forwarded to each person's preferred e-mail address in the Student Tracking Database. Classes since 1993 have mail files on the server and can use either the web version of Notes or the Notes application.

Under the new Lotus license agreement, Web access is the only access and no mail files will be maintained on UT servers upon graduation. All email will be forwarded to the individual's preferred email address on record.

The office will make every effort to ensure they have current email addresses during the annual survey in October. In the meantime, please send any changes or updates to changes@bus.utexas.edu. If you have any questions, contact [Lynda Harp](mailto:LyndaHarp@optionii.bus.utexas.edu) (lharp@optionii.bus.utexas.edu; 512.475.6436) or [Ashley Shipp](mailto:AshleyShipp@optionii.bus.utexas.edu) (ashipp@optionii.bus.utexas.edu; 512.471.5119) of the IT Support Team.

Ways To Register For The Fall Seminar

1. Previously Mailed Seminar Flyer: Find your previously mailed seminar flyer. Fill out the form and fax it in.
2. Online Registration: Register easily at the Option II Web Site: (www.optionii.com.) Pay by Visa, MasterCard or American Express. (It doesn't get much easier than this.)
3. FAX: Go to the Web site and print the enrollment form. Fill it out and fax it, with your credit card information (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) to 512-327-1724.
4. Mail: Snail mail still works, you guys. Complete the Brochure or the form obtainable from the Option II Web Site (www.optionii.com) and then mail it to: 2001 Option II, 2201 Tarlton Cove, Austin, TX 78746. This takes some time so mail it quickly.

Whatever method you choose, make sure that you take the time to complete the form and get it mailed, faxed or emailed into us.

This seminar, and the association in general, is only as successful as the alumni who make it successful. Get involved. Help to make a difference with the association not only through the seminar but also by signing on as a board member.

By the way, invite co-workers, bosses, friends and family members to attend. They are all welcome to participate. Just let us know.



The University of Texas
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