



BUSINESS CHAPTER SACRAMENTO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

December 2006

Sac State's Executive MBA Returns to Folsom

Sacramento State's College of Business Administration will launch a second Folsom cohort of the innovative new Executive MBA program in Spring, 2007 at Intel.

The EMBA is a fifteen-month master's program, designed for seasoned business professionals preparing for leadership positions. Distinguished by a strong business applications focus and ongoing

collaboration with the business community, this program involves local business leaders as executive mentors, guest speakers, and co-instructors. Executives present real-time case studies as in-class challenges, and host networking events for participants, after hours. Guest speaker Roger Valine, President and CEO Emeritus of Vision

Service Plan, told us "I enjoyed my time with the students and the faculty. I am always impressed with the caliber of the people, their passion, and whatever help I can give them based on my over 30 years with VSP is a good use of my time and hopefully can provide a good return for them and for our community as they make their mark."

(Continued on page 3)

Business Chapter

600 Members Strong

Mission

A network of business professionals working together to support the continued improvement of the Alumni Association, the College of Business and Sacramento State; to promote individual member achievement and career advancement; and to make a positive impact in the communities where our members work and live.

Alumni Spotlight—Thomas Gilbert

By Deanna Schluter

"Always do right...it will astonish some and gratify the rest." – Mark Twain. This is a credo by which Thomas Gilbert, managing shareholder and President of Gilbert Associates, Inc. (CPA's & Advisors) and Alum, has lived his life. This code of ethics has appeared time and time again in his career in the many facets of public accounting, during his time in the military, and in his personal life. What goes into the making of such a man?

Thom's interest in the accounting field began with a simple bookkeeping class in high school. After graduating from high school he joined the Army and was deployed to Viet Nam as a Medivac helicopter pilot. His

bravery in combat earned him two Purple Hearts and a Distinguished Flying Cross. His helicopter was shot down on one occasion and on another occasion he was shot, ending his assignment. He says he's somewhat grateful for that bullet now because he would probably have made a career of the military if things had happened differently. Instead, when Thom came home, he used his GI Bill to go to college.

His interests were in Accounting and Economics. Accounting offered a wider range of employment opportunities, so, in a decision that would sculpt the rest of his

life, he changed his major. After graduation, he became a CPA in 1972 and in 1974, began teaching accounting courses at Sacramento State. In 1979, in a bold move to point his career in a new direction and as an assertion of his code of ethics, Thom quit his job and partnered with a tax expert to create the entity that has evolved into Gilbert Associates, Inc.

Today, Gilbert Associates, Inc. is comprised of more than 60 employees and provides specialized services to privately held businesses, K-12 and charter schools, employee benefit plans,

(Continued on page 2)

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Paul Finn

Alumni Spotlight - Thomas Gilbert, Continued

(Continued from Page 1)

insurance risk pools, real estate developers, not-for-profits and associations, and government entities. The Gilbert team has also developed and taught courses in accounting, financial reporting, and auditing for the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, the California Association of School Business Officials, the California Department of Education, the Office of the State Controller, the Association of Government Accountants, and the California School Boards Association, among others.

With a MBA from Sacramento State and a BA from CSU Fullerton, Thom is certified as a public accountant, a valuation analyst, and a fraud specialist, and has over 34 years of business experience. He frequently provides expert testimony and other litigation support due to his depth of experience in accounting, fraud, business valuation, and professional standards.

Some years ago, Thom and his team created a motto to guide the organization and act as a point of reference by which actions and decisions would be judged.

“We are a team committed to excellence in developing and empowering our members to deliver extraordinary service.”

He and his team have returned to this motto time and again to guide their efforts. Each time it was revisited, they challenged it, asking themselves if they should change it or whether they could improve it. Each time, they came away knowing that the motto still described their goals and values.

When asked what his goals for the future are, he said, “to attract and retain quality professionals and to leave behind a healthy organization with a strong community identity when I retire.” Thom chuckled as he explained that he defines retirement as getting down to a 40 hour work week.

He also makes time to remain an active member of numerous professional, civic, and community organizations including the Boy Scouts, the Sacramento Rotary Club, and St Francis Church. He likes to water and snow ski and backpack. He is also Past President of our very own School of Business Alumni Association. Throughout his life and his many experiences, the same theme resounds, “Always do right...”





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LOCAL PRESENCE. GLOBAL REACH.

Sac State's Executive MBA Returns to Folsom

(Continued from Page 1)

Leroy J. Tripette, Education Manager for Intel in Folsom, explained why Intel will serve as host to the public offering for a second time, this spring: "Overall, it just seemed like the right thing to do. Intel is a major partner in education and active in our communities. Partnering with education is one of our corporate values...We have a long history with Sacramento State so partnering on the Executive MBA program not only aligned with our corporate philosophy but seemed like a natural progression of our relationship with the University." Tripette continued, "Our employees are thrilled with the EMBA program and find it to be exciting, enjoyable, and impactful. Many are actually surprised by how much they are learning – especially from the other members in the cohort – so that it makes for a very stimulating environment."

Current EMBA participants represent over seventy public, private, and not-for-profit organizations in the Sacramento region. They average 13 years' experience in their fields, which range from computer technology and engineering to management and marketing. The program is offered in

cohorts, so that 32-36 participants begin and end the program together. A new cohort begins every spring and fall.

Participants take twelve courses over a twelve month period, then spend three months completing individual application projects. Each course is offered in a blended format of three weeks of class meetings, and a fourth week of online research and group work. Class meetings are held on Friday afternoons (3 p.m. - 7 p.m.) and Saturdays (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.) throughout the calendar year.

The cost of the full program, including meals and texts, is \$30,000, paid by the course. Rolling admission for the Spring, 2007 Folsom cohort will begin January 5, 2007, and the deadline for application is February 2. For more information, register to attend a free information session at the Folsom Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, December 6 by e-mailing sbrowning@csus.edu or visit the web at www.cba.csus.edu/emba.

Announcements:

Recognize a distinguished alum:

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the Distinguished Service Award. The annual dinner will be held Thursday, April 12 during Alumni Month. Nominated alumni should be individuals who have achieved prominence in their chosen field and brought distinction to the University and/or their community through their accomplishments. Paperwork is due by Jan. 1st. For more information, contact Dawniela Hightower (916) 278-3862 or dawniela@csus.edu.

Campus News: Enrollment on the upswing

Fall 2006 enrollment numbers provided some welcome good news to Sacramento State—an increased student population. The University has nearly 600 more students this year than last year. The number of total enrolled students for Fall 2006 is 28,529.

For more information, visit the website: www.csus.edu

Helping freshman stick around:

First-time freshmen just out of high school sometimes find college a bewildering and lonely experience, and often only spend a semester or two on the campus before leaving. But Sac State's University Learning Community Program aims to change that.

Mulitalo earns Big Sky honor:

Hornet linebacker Cyrus Mulitalo was named co-Big Sky Conference Defensive Player of the Week after a career-high 21 tackles against Northern Colorado. He leads the Big Sky and is tied for sixth in Div. I-AA with 11.63 tackles per game.

For more information, visit the website: www.csus.edu or www.hornetsports.com.

Get into the head coach's head:

Women's basketball coach Dan Muscatell will be sharing his thoughts with Hornet fans throughout the year. Muscatell's Monthly Musings, available online, will offer the coach's take on everything from preparing for the 2006-07 season to striving to make the Big Sky Conference Tournament.

For more information, visit the website: www.csus.edu/alum/

Chapter Events

Wednesday, Jan. 17th

6:30 PM Pot Luck, 7:30 PM Meeting @ Paul Finn's Home in Natomas

Wednesday, Feb. 21st

6:30 PM Pot Luck, 7:30 PM Meeting @ Karen Gee's Home in Elk Grove

Feb TBA

Educational Event

March TBA

Educational Event

Visit our website

www.SacStateBizChapter.org

Alumni On the Move

Every issue, we feature alumni updates. If you'd like to be in this section, please send your information to kevin@nakanorealty.com.

Aaron Hodgkins (1994) was promoted to Area Manager in 2005, and has been the top Business Development Officer at BLX the last two years. Aaron opened the first Northern California office for BLX in 2002. BLX is a top 5 national small business lender based in New York City with production offices around the country. Phone (916) 565-7630.

Heather Miller (2003) of Meissner, Joseph & Palley was accepted into the Active 20's-30's club of Greater Sacramento #1032, last September. It was followed by months of completing many re-

quirements and showing a dedication to the club. This chapter helps the needs of children in the area, and their motto is: "One never stands so tall as when kneeling to help a child."

Kevin Rappleye (1981) has left Bank of the West and re-joined Sacramento Commercial Bank as a Senior Vice President specializing in real estate financing within California. Sacramento Commercial Bank specializes in SBA, conventional, and investment property financing, including construction. Kevin previously worked at Sacramento Commercial Bank from 1990 to 2002.

Debryn Klein (Young) graduated 1987 with a Masters in Business Administration, 1984

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Marketing Concentration. A Realtor, she has the following designations: GRI, ABR, SRES, CRS with Keller Williams, Fair Oaks office. She specializes in residential and investment properties all over the greater Sacramento area, including Sacramento, Placer, Yolo and Eldorado Counties.

LaVera J. Gaston, M.S. (1993), a Success Coach and Entrepreneur at Insight Training & Development is teaching a High School Financial Planning Program to help high school students in grades 9-12 develop their financial literacy skills while they are young. LaVera can be reached at 916-419-3998.

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