

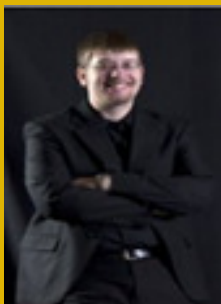
Contact Us with any
Questions!



Mike Walsh, Associate
Director
mwash@clarkson.edu



Patricia Perrier, Assistant
Director
pperrier@clarkson.edu



drapermg@clarkson.edu



thomass@clarkson.edu



this issue

Resources, No Fee November

Student Interview, GBA Updates

Student Profile: Jim Wilkes

Clarkson University cordially invites you to the Graduate Business Program's Winter Reception. During our reception, you will have an opportunity to learn more about our unique graduate programs along with the opportunity to meet faculty and staff as well as current students. You will also take a tour of campus and attend a Clarkson University hockey game!

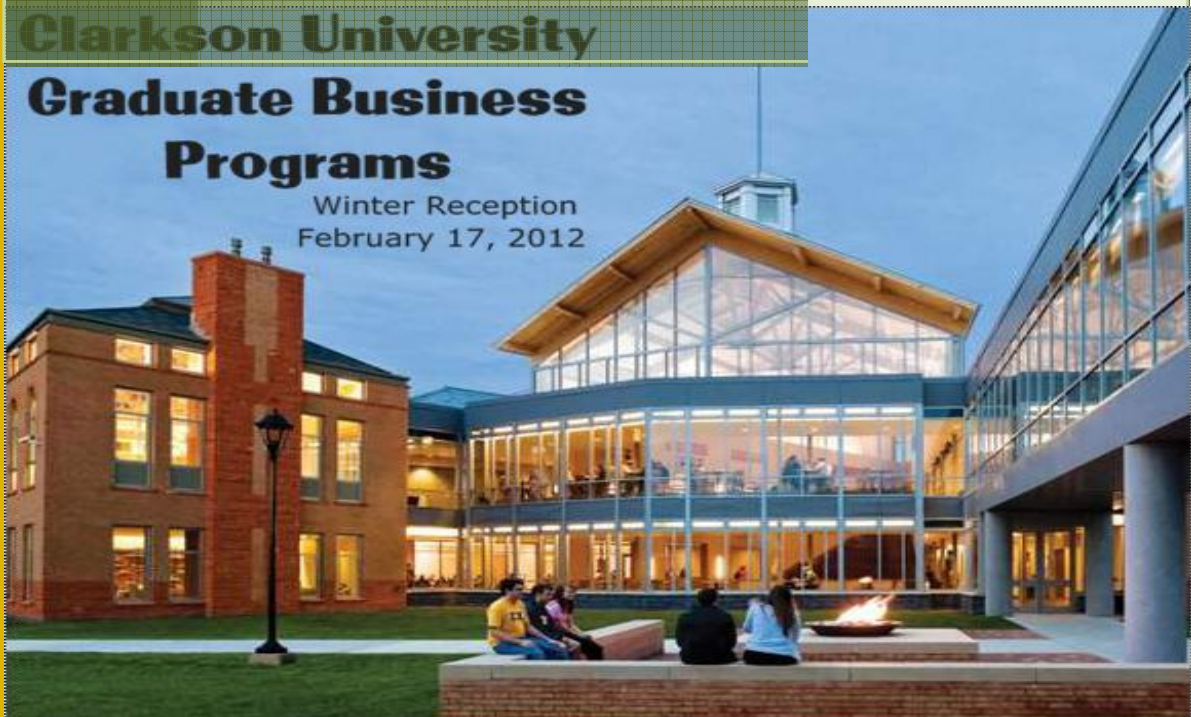
Contact us today to find out more information or to RSVP.

RSVP by February 10, 2012

Clarkson University

Graduate Business Programs

Winter Reception
February 17, 2012



Edward Zhou

Why did you choose to come to Clarkson? I choose Clarkson because the top 15 ranking for the supply chain program.

What do you like most about the program? I really enjoy working on teams and completing simulations with other local Americans and International students. I am looking to learn more about new cultures. I enjoy talking with different people from different countries, it helps me open my mind and teaches me how to think in different ways to solve problems.

How do you balance your school work, GA position, and social life? My studies are most important to me, but I am also learning a lot of valuable information from my GA professor. I also like to travel during my spare time. I believe in an old Chinese saying, "Walking thousands of miles around the world to know the life is even better than reading thousands of book to image the life."



Graduate Business Association



on Women in Business Note

The Fall Semester proved to be very successful for the MBA class. The Graduate Business Association hosted numerous events and activities (including Cultural Night!), providing students with the opportunity to give back to the community, bond together, and learn about leadership skills and possible career paths. Clarkson Women in Business hosted two guest speakers, took part in community service initiatives, and helped create social events for the entire MBA class.

The members of Clarkson Women in Business are eager to plan for next semester. Goals for the Spring semester include hosting an etiquette presentation and providing the future business leaders of the MBA class with golf lessons. The Community Service Chair has decided to join CWiB in its community service efforts. I have planned to hold a book drive for the local hospital to ensure patients will be entertained during the Winter season.

The highlight of the semester for CWiB was hosting guest speaker Susan Todd. MBA students were invited to attend Susan's lecture highlighting her personal career path and leadership experience. —Shannon Thomas

resident's Note

The MBA program can provide many things: a great education in Business, teamwork skills with international peers, lifelong friendships, inclusion into a strong alumni network, the challenge of an intense 1 year program, and numerous sought after skills. I came to Clarkson University for all these things. However, I enrolled in the MBA program for one main reason, I wanted a Job!

Since the first day of school, I have been aggressively pursuing employment. The Clarkson University Graduate School of Business has had played a substantial role in the success of my employment goals. I found Jeffery Taylor and the Career Center a wonderful resource to develop my resume, improve my interview skills, and learn effective job searching methods. I received a lot of support from the head office with Michael Walsh, Patricia Perrier, and Boris Jukic. I was welcomed by every Professor I approached to discuss my resume and career goals. I was able to gain insight on how to make myself more marketable and what areas of an industry to target. Once I had offers, I even received advice on how to negotiate my salary.

This network of Professors, Administrators, and Career Resource Professionals was instrumental in landing job offers.

The job market is extremely competitive right now. I found myself competing with students from Ivy League Universities and the big 10 colleges for jobs with Fortune 500 companies.

I would have never had a chance to not only compete, but to stand out from the crowd, without the resources at Clarkson.—Ray Robinson



Solutions Management Team

In the past couple of weeks, the Solutions Management Team has been extremely busy working to ensure an exceptional experience for the entirety of the 2011-2012 Clarkson MBA Class. Most recently, we have met with Dean Sugrue and OIT in an effort to improve our graduate computer lab. Our comments and criticisms were met with an open-minded attitude, as well as sincere consideration and support. They even communicated their own suggestions and ideas with the same spirit, all in an effort to improve the MBA experience for our class and all those down the line. Our class has been promised a revitalized grad lab with new mouses, keyboards, and work spaces upon our return from break. Other changes will be to ensure that our own printer is the primary option on each computer, as well as introducing a private wireless network so that each student will be able to print directly from their laptops. Hopefully, this will be just the beginning as we will continue to get input and work with the MBA staff and faculty to establish a program that meets and exceeds all of our needs and expectations.

-Mike Draper



Community Service Action Chair

How did you decide you wanted to be the Community Service Chair? I began bike riding about two years ago, and set a goal to race in the Prouty last summer to raise money for cancer research. The opportunity to become the Community Service chair seemed to be the perfect way to accomplish some of my goals, and would also allow me to encourage some of my friends and fellow students to become more active with the local community.

What was the highlight of the Fall semester? Our primary goal was to implement a mentoring program that MBA students could partake in. I have worked closely with SUNY Potsdam to join their mentoring efforts with a local elementary school. The highway cleanup actually proved to be a very successful event as well. Even though the community service event was held on Halloween weekend, many students enthusiastically showed up and made cleaning the community a fun activity.

What are your goals for the Spring semester? We are excited to begin the mentoring program, and are hoping a significant number of students choose to join the program. Mentors will be helping elementary school students with their homework, developing social skills, and making arts and crafts to bring home as decorations and gifts. I have also joined efforts with Clarkson Women in Business to work closely with Shannon and her team on implementing lasting community service events that future students may partake in.

Fundraising Team

Starting next semester the fundraising team will have a fresh batch of eager individuals to contribute to our efforts of decreasing the end of the year banquet costs as much as possible. So far we have brought in over \$900! Over break we will be sending home fundraiser forms for tote bags. Upon our return from break, the team will convene to determine a course of action for the upcoming semester and evaluate possible fundraiser ideas submitted by members of the class. We hope the new year will rekindle our efforts, and allow us to meet our goals!

-Dennis Billings



Student Profile

Jim Wilkes

www.facebook.com/JimWilkesTriathlete

Jim Wilkes is a soon-to-be Clarkson MBA alumni with an incredible story of how drive and determination can get you exactly where you need to be. Jim, a Detroit native, chose to join the military when he was 17 years old. The military provided Jim with numerous opportunities to display leadership and courage. Just after becoming a commissioned Army officer, the terrorist attacks of September, 11th 2001 occurred. Shortly after, Jim took command of the Security contingent at Indian Point Nuclear Power; becoming New York's first lieutenant in the National Guard with a joint service command. In 2002, training for Iraq had begun. One year later, Jim took part in the initial invasion of Iraq. On July 27th, 2003, Jim's platoon was struck by an IED while securing a main supply route in the southern part of the Sunni Triangle. One soldier was lost and several others were injured, including Jim. However, Jim hid his injury as he knew his troops needed him. He had sustained his injury until being struck with a grenade on September 11th of the same year, forcing him to be medically retired from the military.

As a result of sustaining the injuries, Jim lost most of his memory and was forced to relearn who he was and everything he had known beforehand. While others may have shut down due to the daunting experience, Jim persevered. When we asked Jim to describe his experience, he said "a lot of people have gone through situations like this-where it comes down to giving up or pushing through. In the end, you are always a fighter, you always do something."

Jim chose not only to do just "something," but sought to help other military members and achieve new goals. For Jim, being told no did not hinder him, but rather made him even more driven. Jim founded the organization Angel Tracks with the purpose of reintegrating soldiers into the workforce. However, Jim lacked some of the fundamental business aspects that he deemed necessary to success in the business world, and the organization failed. Once again, Jim did not give up; he sought tactical assistance and attended the Entrepreneurial Bootcamp for Disabled Veterans at Syracuse University. The boot camp provided Jim with the basic business fundamentals he would need, but it was not enough.

For someone like Jim, whose hobbies include owning a consulting firm, giving motivational speeches, and competing in triathlons, the next step may have not been so obvious. However, Jim knew he wanted to receive his MBA. Why Clarkson? Jim seeks to defy convention. Jim found his time at Clarkson to be challenging and rewarding, and believes "interaction goes beyond the classroom-the professors, simulations, and assignments create a holistic sense of knowledge. Clarkson is focused on student interaction." Jim also feels the mixture of international and non-traditional students, along with professors who have actual industry experience, make Clarkson unique. Clarkson also provided many networking opportunities for Jim.

This year, Jim is spearheading the Saint Lawrence County's first annual Military Appreciation Day on June 16th, 2012 with the support of Clarkson. Dr. Tony Collins, the University's President, has provided the use of Cheel Arena and vast Clarkson resources including Christina Lesyk, Director of University Events, and Jeff Taylor, Director of Career Services. Jeff and Jim are seeking to provide military members and local veterans with a vast spectrum of career opportunities. With this event, Jim will be able to bring networks into the county, through the university, that have never been here before.

Jim has accepted a position at IBM, and will be working out of Boston as a Global Consultant. Jim will continue his efforts to reintegrate military members into society as an advocate from Team Red, White, and Blue. Jim is also seeking to grow the In Ranks Movement, an organization that asks colleges and universities to open their fitness facilities free of charge to wounded service members, while also attempting to become the first wounded service member to move beyond iron distance triathlons, and earn an invite to the 2012 Epic Challenge in Hawaii. Jim's advice for future leaders is straightforward, "never give up, even when your back is against the wall."

--Mike Draper and Shannon Thomas

