

Economic Crisis Creates Green Opportunity, says Suzuki Foundation CEO

On January 19, Peter Robinson, CEO of the David Suzuki Foundation, spoke to Ryerson MBA students about how the current economic crisis may actually help the environment. Robinson stressed that the economy, the environment, and healthcare are not as distinct as pollsters and politicians may like Canadians to believe; rather, the issues are highly interrelated and directly impact one another. The economic crisis has created opportunities to invest in the infrastructure that will help create a green economy, Robinson said. More than 40 students attended the session.



Ryerson was the only Canadian school to win a division in this year's **John Molson MBA International Case Competition**. More than 140 students participated in one of the oldest, largest and most prestigious international MBA case competitions in the world. Ryerson competed in a total of six case competitions during the week-long event. The team included Catherine Chow, Renice Jones, Nancy Migally, and Beverly Nollert.

Hosted by the University of British Columbia, the **Enterprize Canada 2009 National Business Plan Competition** is the largest of its kind in Canada, with over 30 schools competing. Our team, consisting of Management in Technology Innovation students Ron Alphonso, Sourabh Dhawan, and Gary Howe, submitted their business plan in November and were among 10 teams selected to compete in the Central regional finals on January 17 in Guelph. Although they did not place, it was an excellent experience and opportunity for the students to network.

Ryerson Teams Out-Perform the Competition

Our MBA/MMSc students continue to out-perform their peers in a range of competitions. For the second year in a row, the Ryerson MBA team won the academic category of the **National MBA Games**, held this year at Dalhousie University in Halifax. The annual competition is the largest gathering of the best and brightest MBA students in Canada. For each year that they have participated in the competition, Ryerson MBA students have been among the top three teams in the academic category. This year's games brought together more than 390 students representing 15 schools from coast to coast all vying for the Queen's Cup in three competitive categories: academic, athletic, and spirit. Forty Ryerson MBA students attended along with their coach, Dr. Dale Carl. The academic category consists of case competitions in strategy, marketing, and finance. Ryerson's strategy team – Christy Bergen, Renice Jones, Beverly Nollert, and Luke Southern – placed first. Ryerson's finance and marketing teams also made excellent presentations, which allowed the team to win the overall academic category.

For the second consecutive year, Ryerson MBA students have won the **RBC Next Great Innovators Challenge**. University and college students from across Canada were asked to design an innovation, idea or concept that would make it easier for clients to do business with Canadian financial institutions. Team Omega 4, comprised of part-time students Jonathan Chiriboga, Zuzana Fabian, Carey Gibson, and Binh Lu, proposed Lifelong Electronic Oracle (L.E.O.), a virtual online financial advisor. The team beat four other finalists, including two teams from Rotman, one team from Schulich and one team from Waterloo. They will split the \$20,000 prize.



(from left) Luke Southern, Renice Jones, Christy Bergen, and Beverly Nollert

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Next Information Session:
April 15th, 2009, see website for details

Chinedum Udeagbala Joins Proctor and Gamble



Chinedum Udeagbala was born in Nigeria and completed her BEng at the University of Birmingham (England) before entering the Ryerson MBA Program. During her year at Ryerson, Chinedum was a member of the 2008 MBA Games team, raised money for Spread the Net and mentored local high school students. She completed an internship with Rogers Communications

Inc. and recently secured a full-time position as a product manager for Proctor and Gamble. Previously, she worked for the Union Bank, preparing, recording, and documenting letters of credit. She was also a volunteer member of the Birmingham Involve Society, an organization that assists adults with learning disabilities.

Valliere Brings Venture Capitalist Experience into the Classroom

Drawing on his extensive experience as a venture capitalist, commercial banker, senior IT manager, and software design engineer, Dr. Dave Valliere adds value to his course Finance and Technology Valuation. Dr. Valliere has previously worked in industry as a venture capitalist, commercial banking analyst, senior IT manager, and software design engineer. He serves as director or advisor to numerous small, high-growth technology firms.

His research interests include cognitive and behavioural psychology in entrepreneurs and venture capital investors, effectiveness of information signaling in early-stage capital markets, and economic functions of entrepreneurship. Dr. Valliere is also an experienced adventure traveler: he was Research Director of and a high-altitude climber on the 2005 Kanatek Everest Expedition. He holds a PhD from Open University, an MBA from the University of Western Ontario, and MEng and BAsC degrees from the University of Toronto.



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Ryerson's First MBA/MMSc Alumni Associated has been Elected



(from left) Arvin Peter, Jeffery Wong, Chrislyn Tziortzis, John Tziortzis, and Dale Scarlett

The officers of Ryerson's first MBA/MMSc Alumni Association are hard at work shaping an organization to serve graduates. Dale Scarlett (MBA, 2007), President, said, "involvement inspires success. When talented people are committed to making a positive impact (on future alumni and the community) we can do

anything. Where success inspires involvement, there is a clear understanding that the more successful an endeavour, the more involvement is inspired." Other members include: Arvin Peter (Vice President); Jeffery Wong (Treasurer); Chrislyn Tziortzis (Secretary); Carmen Branje (MMSc Liaison); Erin Barkel (MBA Liaison); and John Tziortzis (MBA/MTI Liaison).

Unique Course in Hotel Asset Management Added to Curriculum

Hotel Management has transformed in recent years. Companies like the Four Seasons, the Hilton and the Fairmont no longer own the properties they manage; rather, they control their brands by operating in buildings owned by real estate investors. Leaders from the industry have identified the need for advanced education to meet emerging demands. In response, TRSM launched a new course in Asset Management in January 2009 that has attracted the interest of many MBA students. The course examines the fiduciary process of managing the lodging asset to meet the owner's investment goals and the required skills of the asset manager in building value at both the portfolio and property levels. The course includes experiential learning through simulations, guest speakers, and a comprehensive project.

