MPM Winter Quarter 2012 News

As the most pleasant winter that virtually anyone can remember fades into the background, all continues to go well with the MPM program. Here’s hoping that all is equally well in the lives and careers of all of you who are receiving this Newsletter. Please continue to send your news to either rjkrizek@northwestern.edu or l-lealaitafea@northwestern.edu, because without your “news” this effort soon lapses into little more than a “quarterly report of new students and/or new courses”.

New Students

We are pleased to welcome the following new students to our MPM program for the Spring Quarter.

Anum Akber (Pakistan)  
Mohammed Bager (Saudi Arabia-USA)  
Zhen Chen (China)  
Brian Glade (USA)

Spring Brunch

We hope to see many of you at our Spring Brunch, which will be held again at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge on Sunday, June 3, 2012 from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. This is a wonderful annual event where everyone (students, alumni, faculty, seminar speakers, advisors, and friends) associated with the MPM program can gather to congratulate the new graduates, renew old acquaintances, meet new friends, and network.

Faculty and Staff News

Burcin Kaplanoglu (Principles of Project Management) and his wife, Mandy, are the proud parents of a son, Marko Ali Terc, who was born on March 28, 2012; he was 18 inches long and weighed 4 lbs. and 10 oz.

Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to Leona Lealaitafea (Mama Leona) on the marriage of her daughter, Erika Walter, to Christopher Johnson on December 3, 2011. Their wedding ceremony and reception were held in the penthouse of the Holiday Inn in Rosemont, Illinois. Erika’s brother, Kurt Walter, escorted her down the aisle, and her brother, Colin Lealaitafea, was one of the groomsmen.

Among the guests who attended this happy occasion were a TV crew from the TLC show Four Weddings and three other brides who were participants on the show.

In early October, Erika was contacted by her florist and asked if she and Chris would be interested in participating on the TV show Four Weddings. After a brief interview process, TLC decided that they wanted to include Erika’s wedding on their show, together with the weddings of three other brides. All four brides attended each other’s weddings and rated them on food, venue, dress, and overall experience. Erika’s wedding was the last of the four. Erika and Chris were also interviewed and filmed at home to learn how they met and other interesting details about their relationship. After all four weddings were complete, the brides came together at the Cunio Mansion in Vernon Hills to film the finale and find out who won a dream honeymoon. The Four Weddings show aired on TLC on March 2, 2012. Although Erika and Chris didn’t win, they enjoyed the experience and have very fond memories of their own week long dream honeymoon in the Dominican Republic.
To the right is a current picture of Joseph Pecoraro’s (MPM 2008) daughter, Rosalie Emma, who was born on November 20, 2010. How fast they grow!!

Michael Unnerstall (MPM 2003) has moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, with his wife, Lori, and their two children. He is now working in the health care industry for Hawaii Pacific Health as a project manager overseeing the design and construction at two hospitals. He invites us to “look him up” if we ever get to Oahu.

Executive Management for Design and Construction (EMDC) Program

We are eagerly looking forward to the inaugural year for our new Certificate in Executive Management for Design and Construction program scheduled to start this coming Fall Quarter. Two courses will be taught each quarter in five Friday-Saturday sessions separated by two weeks each; one course will be taught in the morning of each day and the other will be taught in the afternoon on the same days. Detailed information about the program, including descriptions for each course, can be found on the web site at:

http://emdc.northwestern.edu

Your help in bringing this program to the attention of interested colleagues will be most appreciated. The absolute best type of promotional activity is “word of mouth”, and we are especially privileged to have loyal alums who are so supportive of our efforts.

Symposium on Technology for Design and Construction

The second annual Northwestern University Symposium on Technology for Design and Construction will be held on August 15, 16, and 17, 2012. Following the overwhelming success and enthusiastic feedback from our 150 plus participants and dozen vendors in our 2011 effort, the 2012 Symposium will feature even more “hot” topics in the industry and provide more opportunities for networking, knowledge-building, and exposure to cutting edge developments. Included in the program will be such topics as the impact of social media on projects, legal aspects of Integrated Project Delivery, GSA’s approach to facility management, and technology usage in heavy construction. Save the date now for what we plan to be the design and construction industry’s annual can’t-miss symposium!

To facilitate more convenient access to the amenities of Chicago, this year the Symposium will be held in Thorne Auditorium at the Northwestern University Law School, 375 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. We welcome any publicity help that you can provide by making your colleagues aware of this event and perhaps by considering participation yourself.
**MPM Alumni Association (MPMAA)**

Have you ever thought of expanding the benefit of being an MPM alum and leveraging the MPM network to further your career objectives? Do you know that we have almost four hundred alumni and alumnae spanning across more than forty countries on all five continents? In today’s extremely competitive and globalized marketplace, being an MPM alum is an incredible asset that differentiates you from your competitors and can help you advance your career or grow your business. To take advantage of this opportunity the MPM Alumni Association (MPMAA) has been founded by several of our alumni.

The Mission of the MPM Alumni Association (MPMAA) is to establish a mutually beneficial networking relationship among the alumni and alumnae of the MPM program. By establishing this networking relationship the MPMAA will provide additional intrinsic value to your MPM degree. Our top priority is to foster connectivity and enhance communication among all alums. Immediate plans are to (a) organize local networking events and web-based seminars that feature notable speakers on "hot" technical topics and (b) provide resume and job posting.

If you are an MPM alum, you are already a member of MPMAA. Welcome!!! Please stay tuned for future announcements as we progress through our "learning curve" to achieve a degree of success commensurate with that of the MPM program that we represent. At this time we are open to any and all ideas from you to aid in our development. This is your organization and exists primarily to assist you in your career growth. Hence, if you have any questions or suggestions – or simply want to update your latest contact information or resume – please send an email to numpmaa@gmail.com; we encourage and welcome your input.

To "get the ball rolling", the initial slate of MPMAA officers is:

- **President:** Yury Lui
- **Vice-President:** Ivan Nockov
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Junchen Wu

Let's all work together to make this endeavor a great success. Thank you.