



HAAS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS BLOG

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SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

2009 McGill Canada Case Competition Part 3

Well, here we are the finals day. I have watched the team leave to go get their case and the boys and I do a quick "Go Bears" for them in the hallway...now it is up to them. FAST FORWARD....

Saturday morning, my boys and I go to watch the teams presentation. Christina, Jenny and Michael come into the room with great poise and readiness, I already know that poor Michael is sick with a cold, so I am anticipating that he is not feeling his best. Christina gives the opening and she nails it! Jenny follows and is wonderful and Michael, even though sick is perfect. I couldn't stop smiling. The judges were not easy, and they handled the questions well.

I stayed and watched 9 more teams present including the second presentation for our team. Again, they were on, even better than the last presentation, I was very proud of them. The questions from the judges went more smoothly this time since the team anticipated their weak points of their analysis. The team was balanced in who answered each question, and they supported each other very well.

OK, so you are waiting to hear...well the finals dinner was held in an beautiful venue, and the french food that was served was delicious, oh that wasn't what you wanted to hear....

Well, the awards started and WE WON THIRD PLACE!!!! I was so happy for the team! I think they were somewhat dazed that they did as well as they did. Judges were very quick to come up and compliment their presentations. First place went to USC and second went to National University of Singapore. Yes, the only representatives from the United States were from California!!! So we all took lots of pictures, smiled and smiled some more and then off they went to play some more. I would have gone, but I had two very happy kids (they had heard the news of our win) to come back to.

So home we come to California with big smiles on our faces and one more award to add to that ever growing awards case in the Undergraduate Office.

To Christina Ting, Jenny Cheng and Michael Chen, you were a fabulous team, it was an honor to be with you at MMICC 2009.

March 2009
May 2009
June 2009
July 2009
August 2009
September 2009
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March 2010



Posted by Dinko Lakic for Janet Amador

Labels: [canada](#), [case competition](#), [experiential learning](#)

POSTED BY DINKO LAKIC AT 5:31 AM

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009

2009 McGill Canada Case Competition Part 2

Well, I can tell you that if the competition was about snow tubing Berkeley just hit the ball right out of the park. Ok, let me start at the beginning.

The drive was about 1 hour to a snow tubing area which we owned for the day. No outsiders, it belonged to all of these wild college kids, advisors and of course two cute kids (mother's prejudice!) Before we got rolling (literally) we were ushered into the hall with the roaring fire, and the sweet smell of maple syrup. This hall would be the place for our sugar shack experience after tubing.

The weather was yucky at first, a kind of snowy rain, and the snow on the ground was very icy and sllllllllccccckkkk. So we all got our tubes and got on the moving sidewalk that took us uppppppp the hill. My oldest Chris was the first kid down the hill and my youngest Craig soon followed with a couple of students. I got up to the top, decided I had better go down by myself because I was going to scream all the way down, which I did. The students, Michael, Jen and Christina, were already going down hills, did a train with 4 tubes (that was very fun even when they put me in the front) and they even went down in the rafts that held up to 13 students...no I did not try that. There were some students who got tubed. This meant that others layered tubes over their heads and then in some cases gently rolled the person around in the snow until...well I would assume they said stop at some point. Luckily none of us volunteered for that one. My boys stayed out till the very end, I found the fire in the lodge to be just right after many runs down the hill.

The next experience was the sugar shack. All I can say is that you put maple syrup on everything in sight. We started with some vegetables (no syrup for these) and then deep fried bacon, sausages, ham, an egg cake (not sure how to describe it), maple syrup pie, pancakes, and a cake. All very sweet and well just really sweet. The end of the meal was a maple syrup taffy. They heat up the maple syrup and then pull it as they cool it over snow (clean I hope) and then roll it onto a stick like a lollipop. I can tell you that this was an interesting experience that you do it once and that is probably more than enough.

We were entertained by a student from Finland who led us in a song, and then it was time to get rolling. Many napped on the way home, having enjoyed lots of fun and food.

There was rest time and then our team, the team from Singapore and the advisor from Copenhagen were treated to a walk in the underground. Since the weather can be so cold and wet they have built 3 miles of underground shopping. If you are a shopper this is amazing. We walked through quickly without opening our wallets. Then off to a great Italian dinner and back to the hotel for an early night sleep.

The team is organized and ready to go. They have emailed me about their plan for the day, they have slept well and are ready to start the case. So we wish them luck, we keep our bear paws crossed and we wait until tomorrow night to see how we fared.



Posted by Dinko Lakic for Janet Amador

Labels: [canada](#), [case competition](#), [experiential learning](#)

POSTED BY DINKO LAKIC AT 5:44 AM

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

2009 McGill Canada Case Competition Part 1

Yes, we are here, and we are anxiously waiting for today's major competition. No, this is not case day, but rather a competition that we may have difficulty winning...it is snow tubing. I am worried about our wonderful case team, Michael, Christina and Jen have no experience in this very competitive area, there lack of experience may be a problem, have no fear, I brought 3 weapons with me, my two boys (Chris 11, and Craig 8) and a handy snowball maker for pelting the enemy. We leave for this adventure in a couple of hours, so how we fair will have to be continued on the next blog...keep your fingers crossed.

Otherwise we are doing great! The team has had a chance to see Montreal with an intense 4 hour walk through the downtown and surrounding areas. The

weather has been holding steady at a balmy 4 degrees C, so we have been lucky not to battle any sub-zero freezing temperatures. Last night we had our welcome dinner at Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History which included a tour and a brief history of our northern neighbor.

At the dinner the order of the presentations was done and we are number 7 of 12 teams. We will present at 11:00 and then again at 4:30 on Saturday. At this competition every school presents twice to a different set (7) judges and the top 3 schools are chosen after those presentations. So Michael, Jen and Christina have their work cut out for them with 2 presentations and a 22 hour case prep.

Since I know you all would like to know which schools are attending here is the list:

- USC
- University of Auckland
- Thammasat (Thailand)
- Queen's University (Canada)
- National University of Singapore
- Copenhagen Business School
- Corvinus University of Budapest
- Helsinki School of Economics
- Koc University (Turkey)
- Maastricht University
- UC Berkeley
- McGill University

More to follow...





Posted by Dinko Lakic for Janet Amador

Labels: [canada](#), [case competition](#), [experiential learning](#)

POSTED BY DINKO LAKIC AT 4:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009

Senior gift committee & etiquette dinner

Thursday I went to a meeting for students interested in helping out with the annual Senior Gift to Cal. Last year, a record 45% of Haas graduating seniors made a pledge to contribute. That's an incredible number of people, and we're going to do our best to beat it this year.

After the meeting, I headed to an etiquette dinner for the Haas undergraduates put on by the alumni office. The event was surprisingly fun. Each table had at least one Haas graduate or MBA student as our host. The etiquette expert (I wish I remembered her name) was upbeat and funny at times, which set the tone for a fun, light-hearted dining experience. The Wells Fargo Room buzzed with conversation and occasional laughter. As we ate our dinner and learned about etiquette, I kept thinking to myself "oh yeah, I remember hearing that before". It was definitely a good refresher, and, of course, I learned something new. Well worth it!

POSTED BY CARLOS H. TORRES AT 5:19 AM

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009

E-Business Case Competition

Last night I went to see this semester's E-Business Case Competition finalists give their recommendations to Cisco and Deloitte. Teams were challenged to develop a strategy that Cisco could adopt for penetrating the domestic and international small & medium business (SMB) market. I felt this semester's case competition was more interesting than last semester's Investment Banking case.

The problem presented by Cisco was much more challenging. I kept thinking to myself "what SHOULD Cisco do to penetrate the small business market?" and I really had no clue where to even start addressing this issue. For some reason my mind kept thinking "China!" as if gaining market share in China would somehow take care of all of Cisco's problems. Not surprisingly, most of the finalists did mention that focusing on China was the best possible avenue to becoming the dominant player on the international SMB scene.

One group suggested primarily targeting the Middle East in order to gain a dominant international foothold. I felt this was the most "thinking outside the box" answer to Cisco's problem. They supported their decision with data and did the necessary research on Islamic Law in the Middle East and how it might affect Cisco's entry into that market. Kudos to that group. Even though they didn't win, their argument was compelling and they nicely challenged the traditional line of thinking by looking at the numbers first, rather than thinking of China and then looking at the numbers for support.

The winners of the competition were Jenny Zhou, Andrew Wang, Kevin Huynh, and Patrick Pan. Congratulations!





Labels: [case competition](#), [e-business](#), [experiential learning](#)

POSTED BY CARLOS H. TORRES AT 2:36 PM

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009

2009 Denmark Case Competition Part 5

Our team did a great job, they were clear, told the story, and had fabulous presentation skills. We tried, but we did not make it to finals. The finalists were USC, University of Auckland, and CBS. After watching the finals, the team agreed that USC was the best-they were right, they won.

The remainder of the day was spent getting ready for the gala that evening. We were all dressed in our finest and were bussed to the palace for our dinner and dance. Wow what a gorgeous venue, the evening took on a fairy tale like feel to it with a large beautifully decorated room and amazing food.

I can't say that the Danish dancing went as planned, we tried but our group seemed to have forgotten what to do-can't imagine how that happened. The rest of the night included great dancing, camaraderie, and lots of pictures.

We all won. This entire experience was fabulous, and the team were wonderful ambassadors of Haas.





Posted by Dinko Lakic for Janet Amador

Labels: [case competition](#), [denmark](#), [experiential learning](#)

POSTED BY DINKO LAKIC AT 11:22 AM
