

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Summer is flying by and we are almost ready to unveil the CBA's new home: Douglas Hall. This transformed building with house state-of-the-art classrooms and a trading training floor, providing an innovative learning environment for all of our students. We hope that you will stop by campus and take a look around the new building. Also, if you haven't been to one of our events, now it is a great time to reconnect to your alma mater. Come to one of our August Happy Hours! We hope to see you there!

## Alumni News

Devcon Security, the 13th largest and fastest growing home security monitoring and business alarm company in the United States, has named **Brian Rizzo, BS '01**, as the general manager for the company's northern Chicago branch. Rizzo's primary focus is hiring and training sales people and technicians who are committed to providing the best customer service in the Chicago area. In addition, he will be responsible for building daily branch operations and acting as the brand ambassador working to build partnerships in the local community.

In 2010, Rizzo joined Devcon Security after working for nearly 10 years in home and business security sales and management at the former Brink's Home Security, prior to its acquisition. With a track record of outstanding sales performance, Rizzo acted as sales manager in the Chicago South office when it was named "Branch of the Year" in 2007 and led the Chicago North office as general manager when it earned the title of "Branch of the Year" in 2010.

Actively involved in the community, Rizzo represents Devcon Security in the Chambers of Commerce for Elk Grove Village, Hampshire, Harvard, Huntley, Marengo, Nilens and Woodstock. He is dedicated to building relationships with fire and police departments, real estate agents, home owners associations (HOAs) and insurance companies in the area on behalf of Devcon Security. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, cooking and is fluent in Spanish.

Rizzo graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a bachelor's degree in business management.

If you have news you'd like to share, send it to [cbalumni@uic.edu](mailto:cbalumni@uic.edu)

## Events

### Business Alumni Association Undergraduate Alumni Network Happy Hour

The UIC Business Alumni Association cordially invites you to a Happy Hour at Vines on Clark. Come mingle and network with fellow undergraduate UIC business alumni at one of Chicago's "best rooftop bars" (TimeOut Chicago). Located in the heart of Wrigleyville, Vines on Clark offers a relaxed atmosphere and unmatched views of Wrigley Field. There will be free tasty appetizers for you to enjoy and a cash bar with drink specials. Enjoy the weather and stay active in one of Chicago's largest business alumni networks. We hope to see you there!

When: Wednesday, August 17th, from 6:00-8:00pm

Where: Vines on Clark, 3554 North Clark Street

Cost: Free

RSVP: [Here](#)

### Business Alumni Association Graduate Alumni Happy Hour

Mark your calendar to join the BAA Liautaud Alumni Network on Wednesday, August 10 for a happy hour to celebrate summer! Mix, mingle and expand your professional network at Plymouth Bar & Grill with fellow Liautaud Graduate School of Business alumni. The terrific rooftop deck overlooking the skyscrapers of Chicago's South Loop will be reserved from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Complimentary appetizers will be provided by the Business Alumni Association, and the cash bar will feature drink specials.

When: August 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: Plymouth Bar and Grill, 327 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago, IL

Cost: Free

RSVP: [here](#)

## Special Feature

### New Product Research Showcased at Consortium

A first-of-its-kind consortium brought together scholars and practitioners at UIC to help improve how new products are made.

A joint initiative of the department of managerial studies and the Product Development Management Association, the inaugural PDMA-UIC Doctoral Consortium focused on accelerating innovation. The event was held July 15-17.



"The aim of the consortium was to build community of learning and support among and for the next generation of scholars (senior doctoral students) focusing on new product development (NPD) and innovation," said Cheryl Nakata, professor of managerial studies, who conceived the idea for the consortium.

The event brought together academics with experts of new product development innovation, including Tim Parsey, senior vice president of design, Yahoo, Inc.; Parrish Hanna, global director of experience strategy, Motorola, Inc.; and Ben Brenton, chief innovation officer, Snap-On, Inc.

Students from top universities around the world, such as New York University, Rutgers and the University of Cambridge, competitively applied for admission to the consortium, where they were mentored by academic researchers working on NPD-innovation issues.

About 20 doctoral students shared their research discoveries as they competed for research grant funding. Presentation topics included management, marketing, design, technology and engineering.

Esi Abbam, a UIC doctoral candidate in managerial studies, was pleased to be chosen to participate.

"This was a forum where a collegial atmosphere was created for Ph.D. students like me to share their work and receive valuable feedback," Abbam said.

Grant awards totaling \$7,500 were presented for outstanding dissertation presentations during a speed-funding competition, where student were given five minutes to talk about their research.

After the consortium, Abbam said exploring and developing her research interests under the guidance of distinguished researchers was extremely helpful.

In tandem with the consortium, UIC hosted the first Journal of Product Innovation Management (JPIM) Thought Leadership Symposium July 15. JPIM is the leading journal of NPD and innovation. The symposium introduced current areas of NPD-innovation knowledge to participants and developed a research agenda for the next two years, which will be published in JPIM as a special issue.

Managerial studies faculty members have specialized in teaching and research of NPD-innovation, Nakata said. They started one of the first interdisciplinary curriculums for NPD-innovation at the master's and undergraduate levels with faculty in the colleges of art & design and engineering.



Winners of the SpeedFunding Dissertation Competition: Kevin Cooney, Yuna Kim and Ting Fan.