

#### Newsletter I/2006:

- General update
- Annual meeting 2006
- News from Austin
- News from our members
- Miscellaneous

## **General update**

*Andreas Wenzel & Florian Hoppe*

Dear Members,

no 'big bangs' have occurred since our last newsletter from September 2005. We are however continuously progressing on several fronts. We are in the midst of preparations for our annual meeting this year (see next section for details). We have substantially strengthened the relationship to McCombs Business School via regular communication with the Alumni Relations Department. Specifically, the three recipients of our 2005 scholarship, Katharina Dittrich, Johannes Messing and Rubin Ritter act as our "local representatives" in Austin and conduct regular meetings with the responsible persons at the business school.

We have written a comprehensive article on the German Alumni Chapter and Germany in general for this year's issue of Exchange, McCombs School of Business alumni magazine for the MBA community. The online version should be available in April and we will definitely post the link on our website and send it to you via email.

The initiatives to increase our membership base via '(re-)activating' German-speaking alumni and broadening our reach to other European countries are also on track. Together with the Alumni Relations Department at McCombs we have identified 'potential targets' and are now starting to approach them. We hope that at least some

new faces will show up at our annual meeting this year.

## **Annual meeting 2006**

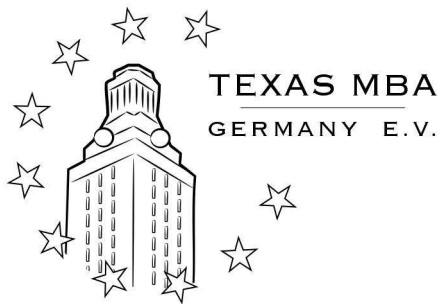
*Brigitte Wittekind & Andreas Wenzel*

At our last annual meeting 2005 in Munich, we had decided to hold the annual meeting 2006 on the last weekend in June, in Berlin. However, it has turned out that due to the soccer world cup, the hotel situation is very critical. After lengthy discussions we have decided to 'relocate' to Rheingau, which we had chosen as fallback option.

The date has stayed the same as originally planned: June 24-25, 2006. As far as the location is concerned we have found a beautiful 4-star wine hotel, Ruedesheimer Schloss ([www.ruedesheimer-schloss.de](http://www.ruedesheimer-schloss.de)). A



sufficient number of rooms is already reserved for us. We are still working out the details of the program but it will certainly be very attractive and include fun, culinary highlights, sports activities and also interesting discussions. We will provide you with the definitive program in April. Of course we hope that you reserve that weekend in your calendars already today.



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## News from Austin

*Katharina Dittrich, Johannes Messing and Rubin Ritter (scholars of Texas MBA Germany, MBA class of 2006, WHU double degree students)*



When we arrived in Austin last July, we were greeted by signs saying "Keep Austin weird". As we have never been in Austin before that date, we wondered what we had gotten into by entering the MBA-program at McCombs. After what seems like

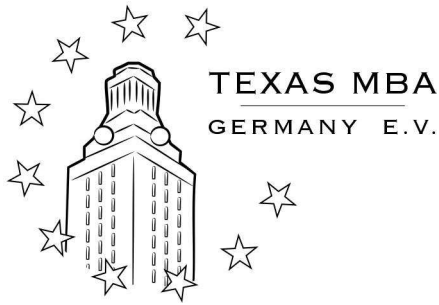
thousands of case studies, the experiences made are a staggering assortment of exciting, small and big events. With this brief report we hope to give you an impression of what has been going on at McCombs, UT and Austin and we can assure you that Austin has remained weird since you have left it.

In the most exciting game in the history of Texas football, the Rose Bowl on January 4th 2006, the UT Longhorns won the National Championship in College Football against Southern California, with a final score of 41 to 38. The game remained fascinating until the last second. Many fans already doubted that victory was still possible when 20 seconds remained in the fourth quarter and Texas was trailing 38 to 33 behind Southern California. Then, Texas Quarterback Vince Young scored a dramatic last second touchdown,

securing the first national championship since 1970 for the Longhorns, their fourth overall. What is more, Texas completed a perfect 13-0 football season and now stands undefeated 20 games in a row. To celebrate the Texas Longhorn's national championship victory the UT Tower was lighted entirely orange with the #1 displayed by roomlights shining through the tower windows during the night.

For President Faulkner the football national championship was just the perfect "cherry on the cake" after his successful seven-year tenure at the University of Austin. He had helped the institution to become a university of first class, including raising \$2 billion in new funds. On February 1st 2006, William Powers, former Dean of the law school, became the 28th President of the University of Texas at Austin. He played an important role on the Enron board over the last years and was part of the internal investigation that discovered many of the illegal transactions and practices that had led to Enron's downfall. With the trial against Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling having begun on January 30th 2006 in Houston, the topic is again in the top news.

Other prominent speakers at the University of Texas in 2005 included His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Herb Kelleher, founder and Executive Chairman of the board of Southwest Airlines, the most successful airline in the nation. Together with around 12,000 Austiners, we had the opportunity to welcome the Dalai Lama in the Frank Erwin Center and to listen to his inspirational speech



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after waiting in line for several hours to get one of the tickets. Herb Kelleher spoke in a much more informal setting at the McCombs School of Business about creating a culture where employees come first.

Also the leadership team of the McCombs School of Business is changing, since Dean Salbu decided to quit his position as associate dean for graduate programs and to return to full-time teaching and research at McCombs. Being one of the most popular faculty members at McCombs, Steve Salbu is renown for his Ethics class and his close contact to students through activities such as the bi-weekly "walk and talk" and informal lunches. Over the five years of his tenure as Dean, Steve Salbu has contributed much to the development of the McCombs School of Business, which is why most students are sad to see him leave his influential position. Eric Hirst, professor of accounting and Ernst & Young faculty fellow, will take over as Dean, effective Sept. 1, 2006.

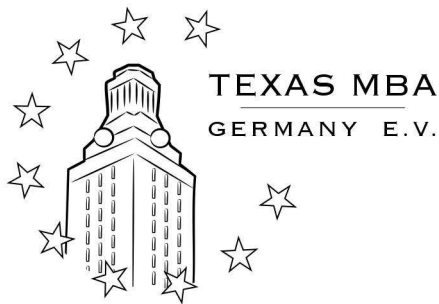
Two other changes that have taken place on the UT campus include a renovated McCombs Plaza in front of the Business School as well as four new modern indoor and outdoor pools at Gregory Gym.



Thanks to the "Leave a Legacy" program of the MBA classes of 2002 and 2003 the Plaza in front of the Business School has been remodelled to now host café tables and shade-giving umbrellas. Wireless Internet Access makes the Plaza a convenient place to relax in the sun before heading to the next class. The four new pools at Gregory Gym, including a new outdoor café, have just opened in December 2005. And since there is no real winter in Texas, students have already been able to enjoy the pools, relaxing in the hot Texan sun.

Fortunately, Austin was spared by Hurricane Rita last fall and McCombs was able to extend help and support to victims of Hurricane Katrina, offering displaced faculty as well as students from Tulane University in New Orleans a temporary home to continue their research and studies at McCombs.

Also the demographics and interests of MBA graduates are constantly changing. 41% of the students in the class of 2007 are "real Texans", while 34% come from the rest of the U.S. and 25% are international students.



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Even though the bulk of the international students still come from Latin America, foreign students from Asia seem to take over. Of the MBA class of 2005 that entered the professional life last summer, 39% of graduates decided to go into finance, while 19% went into marketing and 17% of the graduates decided to become business consultants. Dell is still the biggest employer of McCombs Graduates, employing over 280 MBA Alumni. Deloitte Consulting and Frito-Lay are the next biggest employers of former MBA students.

As you can see from these examples, much has changed over the last year in Austin. However, at least some things stay the same: for those that were fortunate enough to have taken a class with either John Doggett or Jim Nolen, it might be of interest to hear that both are still teaching their hugely popular classes and regularly receive the awards for their work.



And although our experiences here in Austin might differ in many respects from those that were gained here some years ago, the words of wisdom Jim Nolen provides for us will probably never change: “Buy low, sell high,

collect fast, pay slow, manage growth and don't run out of cash”. And for those of you who want to know more about Doggett's latest musings on the world, it might be worthwhile to check out <http://doggetthoughts.blogspot.com/>, surely a unique way to remember McCombs.

### **News from our members**

We are happy that our idea for this new section in our newsletter has generated very good feedback and that we are thus able to report on several personal and professional events and changes.

**Harald Eisenächer** will assume the role of Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) for eBay Germany in June 2006. Currently, Harald is still Vice President Marketing at Lufthansa where he heads all marketing activities of Lufthansa Cargo.

**Michael Froehls.** After more than 2 years as Head of Group Program Management working for the CFO of Allianz Group, Michael has left to pursue new opportunities. Currently he is working as an external consultant for Dresdner Bank through his newly founded company, The Froehls Group, LLC. Michael is still a big fan of New York and has no intention of leaving this beautiful city anytime soon.

**Alex von Frankenberg,** is one of two managing directors of the High-Tech Gründerfonds since October 2006. The fund was started jointly by the Federal German



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government, the KfW banking group and the industrial enterprises BASF, Deutsche Telekom and Siemens under the "Partners for Innovation" initiative and will invest EUR 262 million of venture capital in young, high-opportunity technological companies. Before, Alex was investment director at Siemens Technology Accelerator, the corporate venture capital fund of Siemens AG.

On the personal side, Alex and Anja are happy about their second son, Peer Philipp Raoul, who was born on June 2, 2005. Below is a photo of him and his mom only a few days after he entered our world.



**Michael Goettler**, previously Head of the DM business unit at Aventis is now Associate Vice President Marketing at Sanofi-Aventis with responsibility for all product categories.

**Andreas Hirl** and his wife Blanca are excited about their first son Alejandro who was born on September 17th, 2005.



**Dirk Hoffmann**, has become one of two managing directors of Jamba! in October 2006. Simultaneously, he is VP Finance of Jamba!'s mother company VeriSign. Previously, Dirk occupied the position of CFO of Jamba! GmbH.

**Florian Hoppe** will leave Germany temporarily and go on a six-month transfer to Bain & Company in Singapore.

**Christian Kloss** has taken on the challenge to turn around the state-owned wine-growing estate Kloster Pforta ([www.kloster-pforta.de](http://www.kloster-pforta.de)) and lead the subsequent privatization. Christian is looking forward to welcome visitors who want to explore the "wild Eastern part of Germany". The winery is about a 45 min-drive away from Leipzig.

**Andreas Wenzel**, previously project leader in Bain & Company's Munich office, is now Manager at Rothgordt & Cie. in Munich, a



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small, independent consulting firm focusing on strategy and M&A, which was founded in 2004.

**Brigitte Wittekind**, is on a one-year transfer from McKinsey's Frankfurt office to the firm's New York office from January 2005 until January 2006.

**Manfred Wuethrich** will be moving to Luxembourg with his family. There, he will be responsible for the private banking business of UBS with German clients. Manfred will start his new assignment in April 2006.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### McCombs monthly alumni newsletter

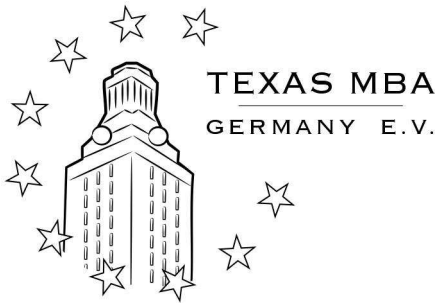
The monthly online alumni newsletter of McCombs business school has been relaunched. If you are interested in receiving it, please make sure that a valid, current email address is on the corresponding distribution list. You can update your profile and email-lists at:

<http://mba.mcombs.utexas.edu/mma/network/index.asp>

#### Personal contact information update

It is absolutely essential for our network that all members keep their contact information current. This includes your current e-mail address that is particularly important as we send out information (including newsletters) only by e-mail. Therefore, please keep your personal contact information updated! Either

use the attached fax-form, or send an email to: [update.data@texasmba.de](mailto:update.data@texasmba.de)



### **Update on personal data**

If your personal data has changed please complete this form and send it to:

Armin Kunz

Texas MBA Germany e.V.

Fax +49- 1212-5-129-29-505

Email: [update.data@texasmba.de](mailto:update.data@texasmba.de)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of significant other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Private address**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Permanent address (if different from private address)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Business information**

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred email-address for Texas MBA-communication: private / permanent / business

#### **Account information for membership fees**

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ BLZ: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Place, date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_