

The IMD MBA

North America Alumni



This selection of recent alumni highlights the kind of work experience our participants have before joining the full-time IMD MBA program, and the careers they go into after graduation or several years after.



"IMD gave me a critical foundation that will be the basis of my future career growth. With the depth and breadth of experiences at IMD, I find that I approach very differently my professional delivery, understanding the context I operate in, the manner in which I process information and solve problems, and ultimately the way I lead and interact with groups."

Joseph Godsey
American, MBA 2011
Senior Manager, CRM Program, Adidas Group, Germany

2012

Tobias Donath, Canadian – Management Consultant, Fidelity Investments, USA
Prior to IMD: 7 years int'l exp. in marketing, sales and executive management in the food and beverage manufacturing industry

Joohee (Julie) Garg, American – Marketing Strategy Professional, International Air Transport Association, Switzerland
Prior to IMD: 9 years experience in business strategy for profit and non-profit sectors

Saswat Panigrahi, Canadian – Product Manager, Google, Germany
Prior to IMD: 8+ years int'l experience in business, R&D and leadership roles in the hi-tech industry

2011

Joseph Godsey, American – Senior Manager, CRM Program, Adidas Group, Germany
Prior to IMD: 7 years int'l experience in IT project and program management in global retail and manufacturing industries

Fritz (Friedrich) Jaeger, American/German – Consultant, Bain & Company SE Asia Inc, Republic of Singapore
Prior to IMD: 7 years int'l experience in general management, business development and finance

Chris Scroggie, Canadian/UK – Pricing Manager, Eli Lilly Canada Inc, Canada
Prior to IMD: 7+ years of project management in healthcare, restructuring and media

Constanza Zalba, Canadian/Argentinean – Corporate Strategy Manager, Galderma SA, Switzerland
Prior to IMD: 7 years in marketing, communications and business development in the hi-tech industry

2010

Rosemary Meacham-Zittel, American – Manager Sales Excellence, Celgene International, Switzerland
Prior to IMD: 5 years of sales & customer service experience in the printing / publishing industry

Colleen Nichol, Canadian – Business Intelligence, Women's Training Western Europe, Nike Europe B.V., The Netherlands
Prior to IMD: 10 years experience in sales & marketing in the technology & healthcare sectors

Kurt Rote, American – Consultant, Western Biodesign Ltd, USA
Prior to IMD: 4 years of strategy, business development & operations management in manufacturing & industrial supply

Raymond Woo, Canadian/Chinese – Management Consultant, McKinsey & Company Inc., Hong Kong
Prior to IMD: 10 years of int'l general management experience in the aviation & marketing services industries

2009

John Bradford Moldin, *American* – Investment Research Analyst, Fidelity International, UK
Prior to IMD: 4.5 years in business valuation & investment banking

Kristin Sherwood, *American* – Director, Corporate Executive Board, Australia
Prior to IMD: 6 years in strategic research, consulting & product management

Ruslana Zbagerska, *Canadian* – Senior Director, Expedia Inc., UK
Prior to IMD: 5.5 years in strategy, program management & business operations in e-commerce & travel

2008

Catherine Kulley, *Canadian/American* – European Operations Finance Manager, PepsiCo International, Switzerland
Prior to IMD: 7 years in accounting & finance

Matthew McKee, *American* – Senior Manager, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Australia
Prior to IMD: 3 years in operations, 1 year in consulting

Bryan Hassin, *American* – CEO, Smart Office Energy Solutions, USA
Prior to IMD: 6 years in executive management and entrepreneurship

A selection of prior MBA alumni

MBA 2007: Philip Dao, *American/Vietnamese* – General Director, Johnson & Johnson (Vietnam) Co Ltd, Vietnam

MBA 2007: Paul Gabie, *Canadian* – Senior Vice President, R.F. Chandler, Singapore

MBA 2006: Marc Comer, *American* – Director of Strategic Planning & Market Integration, Lonza Group Ltd, Switzerland

MBA 2006: Kenneth Schultz, *American* – Consultant, McKinsey & Company Inc, Belgium

MBA 2005: Anna Brown, *Canadian/British* – Senior Engagement Manager, Maxxim Consulting, UK

MBA 2005: Townsend Goddard, *American* – Senior Director Business Development & Strategy, Stryker Europe, Switzerland

MBA 2004: Kardyhm Kelly, *American* – Senior Director, Strategic Tools & Stories, Salesforce.com Inc, USA

MBA 2004: Grant Troxell, *American* – Marketing Director, Philips Consumer Lifestyle BV, The Netherlands

MBA 2003: Joseph Hartzell, *American* – Director, Sales Force Excellence Europe, Medtronic International Trading Sarl, Switzerland

MBA 2003: Bram Portnoy, *Canadian* – Chief Investment Officer, Desdemona Capital, USA

MBA 2003: Lawrence Ganti, *American* - Country Head - Merck Serono, Merck Limited India, India

MBA 2002: John-Kenneth Billingsley, *American* - Director Global Public Policy & Gvmt Affairs, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Belgium

MBA 2001: Marc Chiang, *Canadian* – Partner, Transaction Advisory Services, Grant Thornton Llp,USA

Alumni Clubs

www.imd.ch/alumni/clubs

Our network of IMD alumni connects you with more than 80,000 executives from over 140 countries. The network is structured into more than 40 alumni clubs as well as more focused groups.

In this region, we currently have clubs in:

Boston

Houston

North California

New York Area

Washington DC

Montreal

Toronto

Vancouver

IMD was opportunity to better combine varied interests for 2002 MBA John-Kenneth Billingsley



John-Kenneth Billingsley

American, MBA 2002

Director Global Public Policy and Government Affairs, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Belgium

When you're a person of extremely diverse interests and talents, is it possible to pull it all together into one harmonious life? Looking at John-Kenneth Billingsley, IMD MBA 2002 Alumnus, the answer is yes. Yes, if you are willing to work hard and look for and grab the right opportunities.

The 41-year-old American is Director of Global Public Policy & Government Affairs at GlaxoSmithKline, Belgium, leading government affairs, public policy, public-private partnerships and advocacy for vaccines. "I really feel I make a difference, both within the company and meeting the needs of different stakeholders," he says, citing the creation of sustainable access to vaccines in the developing world as an example of the latter.

"It is also intellectually satisfying to be at the intersection of core personal interests: business, public health and government," he adds. These interests show right back to his unusual double undergraduate degree in Political Science and Pre-medical Studies. "I didn't necessarily expect to combine these studies in a career. But I believe doing what feels right, intellectually and otherwise, leads to opportunities that match your skills and interests."

Like many, John-Kenneth chose IMD at a time when he saw his career budding into greater management responsibilities. He was advancing rapidly within a US-based health care consultancy company, but, he says, "The more I learned at the higher levels, the more I felt I needed to know. I wanted a targeted business program to accelerate my learning. IMD did that. It taught me to make good, holistic decisions rather than apply short-sighted cookie-cutter approaches."

IMD's international character was also significant for him, for reasons both personal and professional. As a young, talented classical pianist growing up, he'd spent time performing in Europe and he felt at home; even more so with marriage to his Italian wife, Gina Leuzzi. IMD opened the door to a business career in Europe, where he has been based ever since.

Personal-professional harmony was a question in another way at IMD. Like approximately half of IMD participants, John-Kenneth and Gina were already parents to then-three-year-old Massimiliano when he started, and their daughter Silvia was "an IMD baby" born in 2003.

Facing this challenge, his philosophy, "doing what feels right", helped ultimately contribute to the balance they enjoy today: "As a family, deciding how to balance with the intensity of the program is one of the hardest challenges you'll face. It'll be tough, but if your choice is right for you and your family, you can gain so much."

IMD MBA 2007 alumnus Philip Dao refuses to live a "deferred life"



Philip Dao

American/Vietnamese, MBA 2007

General Director, Johnson & Johnson (Vietnam) Co Ltd, Viet Nam

Philip Dao came to IMD and learned he had more to give.

Today the 2007 IMD MBA alumnus is living a more ambitious, giving and courageous life. He credits IMD for giving him both the awareness and the tools to effectively take on that challenge.

Dao, who holds both US and Vietnamese citizenships, came to IMD as an accomplished scientist from the world of vaccine technology development. "I realized I had fairly good business sense and strategic thinking," he says. "But I did not have the formal business training that would help me do bigger things for science."

He was certain about how he wanted to achieve that: "I came to IMD with a very clear goal of doing business development and licensing in pharmaceuticals after graduation."

But one day in class, an IMD professor said something that prompted Dao to change his career goal. The professor reminded the class that their world-class education was a privilege, one that would open doors. But that privilege came with the responsibility to make a positive impact on the business world and the community.

"I took that to heart," says Dao. Rather than taking a Europe-based corporate job in business development and licensing, he opted for a position on the operational side with Johnson & Johnson in Vietnam, where he could make a bigger positive impact — now, not later.

In a short time he has achieved results, meeting stretched targets despite the challenging business environment of the past year. He was promoted to Country Director for Johnson & Johnson Medical Vietnam and ASEAN Franchise Director for the Advanced Sterilization Products Franchise in Johnson & Johnson Medical ASEAN and in 2013 was again promoted to General Director.

He credits his success to the combination of his previous experience in medical science and the skills gained at IMD in leadership, strategic thinking, ethics, commitment to corporate social responsibility and self-awareness.

He says MBA hopefuls should ask themselves honestly what they want in life and how an MBA will get them there. More importantly, they should think about how to use the opportunities afforded them to contribute to their family, community and society at large. He himself is living this philosophy.

"I'm passionate about healthcare and always have been," he says. "In Vietnam, I can indirectly touch the lives of patients and make a big difference in the way they receive healthcare. But this is not an easy job and I made a lot of sacrifices to be here in Vietnam. I could have taken a cushier corporate job in Europe or Singapore but I would have been living a 'deferred life plan'."

Read more alumni stories at : http://link.imd.org/mba_alumni