First Annual "Chi-Hop" A Success!

Jasmine Brodmerk
Contributing Writer

Chi Omega, Babson's newest Greek organization, held its first bi-annual Chi-Hop this past weekend. On Friday April 24th at midnight, Chi-Hop kicked off. It was a 12-hour pancake breakfast designed to raise money for our national philanthropy, the Make-A-Wish Foundation. There was no cost for the pancakes. Instead, students were encouraged to donate whatever pence change they had on them. The event was very successful, raising $553.

This was Chi Omega's second fundraiser for Make-A-Wish, and their first big campus event. Last semester Chi Omega held a 50/50 raffle during Parental Weekend that raised $285, but the Chi-Hop at this semester really served to get our name out on campus and increase our presence. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a national philanthropy that grants the wishes of terminally ill children. Children go through a series of informal interviews to determine their true wish. The Foundation then seeks to grant the wish, adding little touches that will enhance the experience. For example, a child's wish may be to be a ballerina. In addition to receiving private lessons with her favorite dancer, she will attend a show and be given the chance to perform for family and friends with a reception afterwards.

The Foundation requires $8000 to grant a child's wish due to the expenses incurred in granting both the wish itself and providing the wish enhancements. The Sigma Mu chapter of Chi Omega hopes to be able to grant a wish within the next few years. We hope to make the Chi-Hop a bi-annual event and also start an annual golf tournament with proceeds going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Chi Omega would like to thank Star Market, Theta Chi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Professor Sydel Szukvitz for their generous time and donations. Additionally, we would like to thank everyone who came out and supported us. Thank you for helping to make our first bi-annual Chi-Hop a success.

Excerpts, Excuses!

Ladies and Gentslemen
YOU ARE OUT OF LUCK!
We don't want your articles anymore! I'm kicking you out of our depository for the fall. However, your final chance is to make something of yourself with Babson College's number one source of free printed broadcast will be to submit your favorite senior pictures, jokes, and shout-outs for May 11th. Hasn't the class of 2006 been good to you? If not, then now's your last chance to let them know just what you think. Either way, I might as well debunk last year's excuse for old-time's sake.

Excuse Number Ten: (Are we really on Excuse Number Ten? Boy, and we didn't even get through all of them this semester.)

"I've never taken journalism."

HaHa! We're flattered that you think any of us have. While it would be nice to have a staff full of journalists majoring, we do the best we can without. If you've ever read the Free Press before, you probably know that we don't hold our contributing writers to grueling standards.

Shyira Life
from the blog of Meredith McLeod-Sears

The following is a blog from Meredith McLeod-Sears's time in Rwanda where she was taking a leave of absence from Babson last semester.

Shyira Life

Sometimes Africa becomes so much that you go into a place that's almost out of body. It's as if things are happening to you that are out of your control and have entirely nothing to do with you. On Sunday afternoon, Keri and I rode in the back of a matchbox car (almost literally) to Rubengeri, which is about an hour and a half, so that we could reach entrepreneurship at Sonrise Secondary School. When we arrived there Monday morning, we found them to be off schedule and still taking exams. We had planned to teach for 2 days and then have a business-ideation competition on the third day. We spent Monday figuring out how we would cram 2 days of highly sophisticated material into 1-2 hour course while trying to teach all 250 students. We ended up with an elaborately planned out schedule (thanks to Keri), which had about 60+ students in each class with 3 people to a bench.

With our overly-complicated minute-by-minute schedule, we arrived at the school Tuesday morning and found 5 teachers and the mistresses, who don't speak English, let alone English. We found a classroom with a lot of kids and with kites flying around like wild animals, and watching movies all day. Somehow we were expected to deliver 60 kids at a time into a classroom for a business lesson the day after their last exam. Worst of all, we had 5 minutes in between classes to organize all new classes, and we recruited some lovely female students to help us and the endeavor was quite successful in one classroom with about 55 students.
Camp Out Loud: A Human Rights Project in Review

Daina Ruback
Staff Writer

Camp Out Loud was to be a visual representation of the displaced refugees across the world. Members of STAND, BSU, and H O L A partnered together and asked students to join in their three-day campout on the Park Manor Quad. Tents were provided for participants, and information given on how they can get involved and to stop genocide and conflict that pushes many out of their homes. Participants also had the option to abstain from showering, eating, and sleeping in their dorm rooms in order to accurately convey the realities for refugees. Three Somali refugees came to share their experiences on the last day. It was an effort to spread awareness about this global issue, as well to unify the community via direct action and demonstration.

The brainchild of Robin Messerli and myself, Daina Ruback, the event resulted from a STAND campaign called “Tents of Hope.” Realizing that displacement is not an issue unique to Darfur, the idea was expanded to incorporate the entirety of the worldwide refugee population. A group from Professor Goldberg’s Human Rights class took this vision on as their final activist project (group members: Sarah Elizabeth, Brian Greenbacker, Robin Messerli, Shaina Silva, and Daniel Torres). No, interestingly enough I was not in the group. Currently, there are about 35 million displaced people worldwide. Eighty percent of these refugees are women and children.

Since I’m sure most of the campus saw these tents—and many even read the signs giving facts about displacement—I won’t burden you, the reader, with too many details of the actual event but instead focus on a little bit of review and reflection. Sarah Elizabeth, one of the group members commented, “we believe that mere presence in the display and the tents signaled a message to students, faculty, and staff. One of the EPS professors, Mike Caslin, told his Social Entrepreneurship class that he learned an incredible amount in the 10 minutes he spent walking around reading the statistics posted on the wooden stakes.”

So even though participation wasn’t as fruitful as we had hoped for (mostly people totally windmill/flushed out), there was a great response to those few brave souls who stuck it out. Yes, we realize it wasn’t the most accurate representation of a true refugee camp—EMS rental tents, laptop, food, readily available, and cell phones are not things you will normally encounter as a refugee, but hey, we did the best we could. Robin Messerli states this reflects on this point quite eloquently, “The apparent, most convenient, way to simulate a refugee situation, a situation where there are absolutely no conveniences to afford, is to be so lucky as to be in the top .5% of the world who has access to such incredible resources, which we are never so far as three-minutes-away-from-checking our-mail at all times.”

So even though there was some hesitation to participate and some cynicism to its effectiveness, people were talking about it. That is usually the goal of the wild seeds Robin and I come up with, to annoy, confuse, and evoke some questioning from the Babson Community. All in all this was achieved. Hopefully at least a few students took a moment to realize how incredibly lucky we are to have a warm bed to sleep in every night. Millions of people do not possess such luxury.

Safe! Or Not

Jasmine Brodsky
Contributing Writer

One day, I was giving a campus tour when I was asked, “How safe is the campus?” Most people would answer that the campus is really safe, but I started thinking. What exactly is safety? There’s product safety, personal safety, public safety, and structural safety. There’s the concept of a “safety net,” and we even call those boxes that hold our personal possessions “safety.” Safety is a fluid concept, but ultimately, it is a state of being or feeling free from harm or danger.

Safety can be internal or external. For example, if a car is deemed “safe,” that can have two different meanings. The first is that the car protects against external hazards. It’s safe in the sense that it does not rock much on windy days or that the time does not slide on wet roads. If you live in Boston, it is important to have a car that drives well in snow and bad weather. Internal safety, however, refers to product or design details that ensure that the product operates in the way it was intended. Using the car example, seatbelts, airbags, and the braking system are all examples of internal safety features. Some features, like engine design, can be classified as both. The engine is made to withstand crashes. It is designed so that it does not blow up easily upon impact. That aspect of it is external safety. However, the fact that racing cars have modified engines to handle the high speed is an example of internal safety.

The engine’s design ensures that the car runs well at fast speeds the way it was intended.

Another way to define safety is in terms of perceived safety and actual safety, where perception may or may not reflect reality. A product or service may not be as safe as it seems. On the other hand, something that seems really dangerous may actually be quite safe. Take wild animals as an example. Many people believe that wild animals are dangerous. There’s a belief that these animals are savage and attack anyone they come across. While this image has some merit, most wild animals are not so dangerous. These animals will attack when provoked or threatened, but if left alone, they will not generally cause harm.

An example of perceived safety is insurance. Insurance is designed to protect against financial loss in the case of an accident, injury, harm, or even death. Various types of insurance can protect against different things: homeowner’s insurance covers damage to houses and automobile insurance covers damage related to cars. Sometimes, people may think that their insurance covers a threat that it actually does not protect against. For example, many Louisiana and Mississippi residents thought their homeowner’s insurance covered flood damage to their houses. They were unaware that they needed separate flood insurance. Their perception was that they were safe but in this case, they were not.

Being “safe” is a state of mind but there are some things that we cannot be safe from: incidents that, regardless of protective or preventative measures, cannot be avoided. Some examples include illnesses, natural disasters, wars, certain crimes, and even death. However, people can, and do, protect themselves from these situations. They take steps to make themselves feel “safe”. Let’s use a car, particularly burglarly, as an example. Ultimately, you can take a car from burglary, because it’s impossible to control another person’s actions. If someone is intent on robbing someone, then the situation cannot be avoided. However, there are some things people can do to protect themselves, like take self-defense classes or carry a mace. In their homes, they can install an alarm system linked to a safety center or keep a gun in a nearby drawer.

Since safety is a state of mind, it is defined differently according to each person’s perceptions and comfort. There is no one definition of safety, and safety can only take a person so far. Ultimately, situations beyond one’s control force the need for preventative measures taken to feel safe. So I ask you, are you safe?
Dissecting the “Real” in Reality TV

Jasmine Brodmyer
Contributing Writer

Reality TV, on its surface, appears to be a relatively recent genre of television, but in reality it has been the distant cousin in the television family. Reality TV has been a part of television: its roots are seeded in game shows and talent programs like Star Search. However, reality TV has undergone some major makeovers, much like that previously ignored cousin who suddenly turns up with a comeback story and is immediately the hit of the party.

Today, reality TV consists of everything from game shows to social experiments. The cast can often burst out over a week or in the case of shows like Fear Factor, The Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune, or the beginning of television: its roots are seeded in game shows and talent programs like Star Search. However, reality TV has undergone some major makeovers, much like that previously ignored cousin who suddenly turns up with a comeback story and is immediately the hit of the party.

One of the biggest criticisms is that reality TV is a misnomer. Rather than real television, it is real people in contrived situations, often told how to act or pushed toward certain behaviors by the situations in which they are placed. Producers control such environments and create pressure-cooker situations where characters may blow, causing the drama needed to obtain and retain viewers. This is why isolated environments, whether they are an island or a house where everyone lives together, are so popular.

As Mark Burnett, creator of Survivor and The Bachelor, has stated, “You can’t control the drama.” What is really important is that the drama is a necessary piece of the puzzle. The reason reality television shows are so addicting is because they are so ridiculous and dramatic. Fights burst out over the most insignificant issues, hookups abound no matter what the focus of the show is, and suspense builds as viewers watch to see who will get eliminated next. The show often builds to a climax, with some unexpected twist being revealed right at the last minute. Like other forms of television, this cliffhanger keeps viewers tuning in from week to week.

Another point that ques- tions the “reality” of these shows is that the cast members’ motives. Money, fame, and career pursuits are the three most obvious motives for participating in these shows, and all three will alter a person’s behavior. Cast members will take on a new persona, particularly in front of the cameras. Diana and Ben on The Bachelor: Extreme, and The Real World: Road Rules Challenge: The Duel, illustrate this point. They both turned to this season of The Bachelor Extreme, and Diem has stated on more than one occasion that they have met for the first time together for over a year, and CT only acts like a jerk when he’s on the show.

Whether real or not, these shows have a certain allure to them. It is often difficult to avoid watching reality TV altogether. The reason is that we can’t help but be drawn in by the drama. The drama is a necessary piece of the puzzle. The reason reality television shows are so addicting is because they are so ridiculous and dramatic. Fights burst out over the most insignificant issues, hookups abound no matter what the focus of the show is, and suspense builds as viewers watch to see who
What's Happening on Campus

**Monday - April 28, 2008**

**Last Grad Monday evening class**
Contact Name: Registrar
Contact Phone: 4519

**Added By: Carolyn Langdon-Place**

**Yoga in Glavin Chapel**
12:00 PM-1:00 PM
Description: Our instructor Lauren teaches an anusara-inspired hatha flow class. It is appropriate for both beginners and experienced students, and the entire Babson/Olin community is invited. Wear comfortable clothing, mats are provided.

Contact Name: Jane Jackson
Contact Phone: 781-239-4505
Sponsor: Spiritual Life
Location: Glavin Chapel
Added By: Jane Jackson

**YOGA exercise class**
4:45 PM-5:45 PM
Contact Name: Andy Dutton
Contact Phone: 781-239-5650
Location: Webster Center
Chandor Dance Studio
Added By: Andrew Dutton

**Catholic Mass**
5:00 PM-6:00 PM
Contact Name: Jane Jackson
Contact Phone: 781-239-4505
Sponsor: Office of Spiritual Life
Location: Glavin Chapel
Added By: Jane Jackson

**Monday Matches**
7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Contact Name: Shi Ming Chung
Contact Phone: X4338
Sponsor: Chess-Mates
Location: Reynolds Back Dinning Room
Added By: Jennie Erdle

**White Lecture**
7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Description: White Lecture Series in OEM sponsored visit by Kevin Collieran '00 of Facebook, who will be talking to the OEM about the benefit of an integrated education in his work at Facebook.

Contact Name: Brian Duggan
Contact Phone: 5121
Sponsor: Academic Services
Location: Babson Chapel
Added By: Brian Duggan

**Tuesday - April 29, 2008**

**Last Grad day and UG T/B class and last Tuesday evening class**
Contact Name: Registrar
Contact Phone: 4519

**Added By: Carolyn Langdon-Place**

**Honors Presentations**
4:00 PM-5:30 PM
Description: The Babson College Honors Council invites you to celebrate The Achievements of the Class of 2008 Honors Students

Contact Name: Emily Marks
Contact Phone: 781-239-4075
Sponsor: Babson College Honors Council
Location: Knight Auditorium
Added By: Mary Beth Crane

**Greek Orthodox Easter**
5:30 PM-7:30 PM
Description: Join Hellenic Society at Trim. We will be cracking 300 red eggs.

Contact Name: Katerina Iliades
Contact Phone: 617-9202197
Sponsor: SOA
Location: Trim
Added By: Katerina Iliades

**CWL Author Series**
Birthing the Elephant: The Dutton's Go For It Guide to Starting a Business
URL: http://cwl expo01.babson.edu/CWL
6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Contact Name: Sharon Feinlick
Contact Phone: 781-239-9191
Location: Babson College Blank Center
Added By: Sharon Feinlick

**Wednesday - April 30, 2008**

Graduate evening Finals
Contact Name: Registrar
Contact Phone: 4519
Added By: Carolyn Langdon-Place

**Nef-Nef Bathrobes Report to Community**
9:45 AM-11:20 AM
Description: Come watch the Beaver Bowl, sponsored by Nef-Nef Bathrobes!

Contact Name: Vicki Truong
Contact Phone: (203) 936-5699
Sponsor: Nef-Nef Bathrobes
Location: Tomasso 209
Added By: Vicki Truong

**SPS Office Hours for MBA students**
4:30 PM-6:00 PM
Description: SPS will be holding office hours in Olin on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:00 PM for MBA students.

Contact Name: Meredith Stover
Contact Phone: 4015
Sponsor: Student Financial Services
Location: MBA Admission Conference Room, 1st Floor Olin
Added By: Meredith Stover

**SPIN-CORE exercise class**
4:45 PM-5:45 PM
Description: A resilient and lecture featuring acclaimed baritone Dana Whiteside
Babson Free Press

It’s funny how the same pack seemed so much heavier on campus.

College Students
Get 15% OFF full-price items at GameStop with college ID. The offer ends on June 30, 2008.

Newton
310 Needham St.
617-559-1875

Newton

Steering Committee
Location: TBA

Friday, May 2, 2008
Babson’s Fast Track Visitor Program
Description: These visits are geared toward prospective Fast Track students, who typically have at least 7 years of work experience. This program is designed to answer questions about Fast Track’s innovative blended learning format through discussions with faculty, students and admissions staff. The visit generally includes a two-hour class session and the opportunity to speak with current students. Please register online to sign up for one of these sessions. You can get additional information about our Portland Fast Track Class Visits on our Fast Track Portland Web page.

10:00 AM – 11:30 PM
Contact Name: Dave Yarus
Contact Phone: 4443
Sponsor: SGA
Location: Roger’s Pub
Added By: Jennie Erdle

Saturday, May 3, 2008
Graduate day courses
Location: Registrar
Contact Phone: 4519
Added By: Carolyn Langdon-Place

Sunday, May 4, 2008
Senior Celebration
Location: Trim Dining Hall
Added By: Alissa Anderson

Monday, May 5, 2008
SGA Pub Night
Contact Name: Leon Amaran
Contact Phone: 781-239-6130
Sponsor: MBA Admissions
Location: Olin Hall
Added By: Jennie Erdle

Jasmine Brodmeyer

It seems that in today’s fast-paced world, few people make the time to read. Advances in technology have led to the decline of reading placed on reading in our schools, which in turn has led to the demise of reading as a recreational pastime. It’s sad because reading has the power to spark our imagination, challenge the mind, and teach new things. It is a way to escape the world we live in and travel on a journey to lands far away or times long past.

Advances in media technology have caused books to be forgotten. Hardly anyone reads anymore, because we can watch a television show or movie that tells the same story in a fraction of the time that it would take to read the book. The availability of the Internet gives students widespread access to summaries and synopses of novels so that we do not spend time reading the real thing.

Advances in communication have also made it easier to justify less emphasis on reading. It is now possible to verbally communicate with anyone, provided that the person has the right technology, such as webcams or video conferencing equipment. This clearly makes it difficult to communicate in writing, which in turn eliminates the need to read a document. With e-mails and other communications through text, the meaning sometimes gets lost or misunderstood, because the new technology and text are harder to discern. However, the possibility of verbal communication, no matter the distance, lessens the need to stress the importance of reading.

Since reading is not as strongly emphasized in schools, it is becoming less of an ingrained habit. Students are reading less in schools, which carries over into their recreational lives. They choose to spend their free time watching TV or surfing the Web, as opposed to the old-fashioned notion of curling up with a good book. We are then missing out on the benefits of reading.

The biggest benefit of reading is that it’s entertaining. A good book has the power to throw our imaginative gears into overdrive. Movies and television offer little creative freedom: their visual aspects paint the picture for us. In a reading, however, you are the artist. No matter how detailed words are, they still are open to interpretation. Millions of people can read the same paragraph of a book, and all of them will have different pictures of it in their mind. The creative freedom that books provide allows each reader to use one’s imagination and take us on a creative journey.

Reading can also challenge us. Not all books are fantasy or fiction stories. Some recall historic events or paint a grim picture of where we are headed if we do not learn from the past. These books may lay down new theories or ideas that we do not necessarily agree with. By discussing these ideas, either through an essay or in a book group, we are challenging ourselves.

Whether we agree or disagree with the author, one must provide solid evidence from the text. Reading can also force us to see situations in a different way.

We can learn from reading, both in content and in the writing itself. Obviously, we will take away some lessons, facts, or ideas from the reading, but there are other things as well. With such new knowledge, we read a little more about tone, theme, lay, and even vocabulary.

This learning stimulates our brains. One’s brain, like one’s body, needs exercise to stay in shape. Reading provides that mental exercise.

Reading can take our minds places. It is a powerful stimulant, and if we let them, books can teach us more things than we know existed. By reading, we not only learn from the author, but also from all of his or her previous influences. As Gilbert Highet said, "These are not books, lump's of lifelike paper, but minds alive on the shelves." Learn from them.

Contact Name: Professor
Contact Phone: ext. 6419
Sponsor: Arts & Humanities and History & Society Division
Location: Glavin Chapel
Added By: Sheila Dinsmore

Harvard Square Meals
4:30 PM–8:30 PM
Description: Work with various community members to prepare, serve up free meals served to about 100 patrons.
Contact Name: Joshua Stevenson
Contact Phone: 5565
Sponsor: Berson Center
Location: Harvard Square
Added By: Joshua Stevenson

PILATES exercise class
4:45 PM–5:45 PM
Contact Name: Andy Dutton
Contact Phone: 781-239-5650
Location: Webster Center: Chandon Dance Studio
Added By: Andrew Dutton

Yoga—location change
5:00 PM–6:00 PM
Description: Yoga will be held in the Sorenson Rehearsal Studio today.
Contact Name: Jane Jackson
Contact Phone: 781-239-4600
Location: Sorenson Rehearsal Studio
Added By: Jane Jackson

SGA Pub Night
11:00 PM–12:30 PM
Contact Name: Dave Yarus
Contact Phone: 4443
Sponsor: SGA
Location: Roger’s Pub
Added By: Jennie Erdle

Friday, May 2, 2008
Babson’s Fast Track Visitor Program
Description: These visits are geared toward prospective Fast Track students, who typically have at least 7 years of work experience. This program is designed to answer questions about Fast Track’s innovative blended learning format through discussions with faculty, students and admissions staff. The visit generally includes a two-hour class session and the opportunity to speak with current students. Please register online to sign up for one of these sessions. You can get additional information about our Portland Fast Track Class Visits on our Fast Track Portland Web page.

URL: http://events.embark.com/event/
Contact Name: Jillian Cone
Contact Phone: 781-239-6130
Sponsor: MBA Admissions
Location: Olin Hall
Added By: Leon Amaran

Graduate day courses
Contact Name: Registrar
Contact Phone: 4519
Added By: Carolyn Langdon-Place

Contact Phone: 4301
Location: Trim Dining Hall
Added By: Alissa Anderson

Senior Celebration
5:00 PM–7:00 PM
Contact Name: Michelle Brown
Contact Phone: X4430
Sponsor: Class of 2011

Contact Name: Joni Sorenson
Contact Phone: 781-239-5622
Sponsor: BEI/Sorenson Center
Location: Roger’s Pub
Added By: Kathrin Sorenson

Saturday, May 3, 2008
Graduate day courses
Contact Name: Registrar
Contact Phone: 4519
Added By: Carolyn Langdon-Place

Undergraduate Reading Days
Contact Name: Registrar
Contact Phone: 4519
Added By: Carolyn Langdon-Place

Next week brought to you by: FINALS! YAY!
Continued from page 1

Shyira Life

from the blog of 

Meredith McLeod-Sears

that were the ones we had on that night.

The next class was less suc-

cessful and had about 40 stu-

dents. This was not because of

gamification of everyone left over

and about 20 students. The

students needed to under-

stand the lesson, and so we

broke them up into groups and

had them generate business

ideas for their home villages,

school, or nearby towns. It

was quite a successful project

and out of the 20 businesses

in all only 2 were similar

ideas. All had a certain ele-

ment of creativity and un-

constrained knowledge of key

entrepreneurship concepts. I

was very pleased with the

work. At the end of Tuesday,

we went home physically ex-

hausted.

After a tough night, I went

back the next morning with

the idea of piecing together

an idea competition!

The first class was running

smoothly and one of the group leaders was presenting when the

headmaster bursted in the

room. He was yelling and

speaking and approached me

with, “All of the students need
to get in the front of the class

assembly.” I’m well-adept at

how Africa works, and so this

interruptuous came as no

surprise. I proceeded to let

the group finish their presenta-

tion, then dismiss the class

and told them that they were

to come back promptly after

this and they could finish the

competition.

What I found when I went
to the class was that we had

just found out that the Minis-
ter of Education was making a surprise visit to the

school the next day and that it

was now every student’s
duty to clean and spruce the

school for the headmaster.

The headmaster assigned

every grade a different chore,

and when he came to the grade

levels I was teaching I told

him that those students were

in entrepreneurship class and

that they needed to return.

After arguing a little bit, he

gave in and let me have it,

and the kids cheered in ex-

citement that they didn’t have
to do the chore.

We finished the competition

with relatively little interrup-

tion, and I selected 2 winners

that were some of my first

students in what were their

first sweets in who-knows-how-long. I wasn’t able to give two

students in my second class,

but once again I fought with

the headmaster in trying

to explain why I was doing

what I was doing, and when he said that they were trying
to evade work by com-


ing to entrepreneurship class.

Naturally I won the argu-

ment and started the com-

petition. Both competitions

were successful, and I left

the impression that it was an

intern at the school to com-

plete the second competition.

When we were starting that day to re-

turn to Shyira.

I was so glad to be leaving

the chaos of selling and ex-

caping the computer class

they were planning to have

the next day. I had to go to

the Minister’s visit (the students
don’t know how to use a com-

puter mouse). After making

it back to the computer lab

and getting the few screws and having some sense of accomplish-

ment, we went to get a drink for

the car taking us to Shyira to

arrive. What arrived was the

ambulance for the hospital.

It had just taken an emergency
to a hospital nearby to where

we were staying and came by

to pick us up.

What you must know about the road to Shyira is that it

is an hour and a half total, and the last hour is quite pos-

sibly the roughest terrain

one will ever be on. Even in

the best of cars, it is not a

pleasant and one on

airborne. Thus setting on

a stretcher without any other

medical support would have

really a pleasant, much less

safe thing to do. Keri and I

were flying all over the place

with our limbs hitting our

selves and our elbows in dead-

locks in a desperate struggle

against the sides of the am-

bulance. We had eaten blog

for breakfast earlier in the

day, and this wasn’t helping

the trip. After an hour of

being beyond sick, I passed

over for a bit, and the Ameri-

can doctor in the front seat

put acupuncture needles in

me.

Despite the needles hurting

when being jerked around by

the ambulance and lying in

relieving ourturning

stomachs. We hit the apart-

ment, and I thought

sharks and crashed in our

beds. This brings me to today.

Louise had asked me the pre-

vious night if I could be at the

hospital at 8:15 to teach some

pharmacy (seeks how to use

Excel (one of my usual hospi-

tal gigs), so I did that

morning. I was much sur-

prised to see their visions

were in French, and I really

wondered how I would teach

them given my poor level

of French and the fact that the

formulas’ names were all in

French. I managed to

manage well and proceeded to teach half

the lesson in French. It was

progressed with my

English was easier for them as

their English was broken and

hard to understand.

After Excel lessons, we vis-

ited Shyira Secondary School,

where I will be teaching next

week, where we had a

Rwandan lunch, and after-

wards, I returned to the

pharmacy to come up with

lessons. Both Keri and I are

exhausted from everything that

has been going on, and once

the lessons were over at 4, I
could think of was crashing

in my bed with this horren-

dous sinus infection we both

have. Earlier, the headmaster

of the nearby private second-

ary school visited me in

the pharmacy during my French

Excel lessons and asked that

I would teach entrepreneur-

ship this afternoon to his stu-

dents. He begged that I do so

in French, so he overheard me

speaking. I told him that

I would certainly need a

translator, although my tran-

slator didn’t prove to be

good enough for the nature

of the material and not near

as English-proficient as the one

I had at the technical school

the week before.

When we arrived at the

school at about 4:10 pm, I was

physically exhausted, sick,

and trying to imagine how I

was going to get through.

We met for 15 minutes with

him, and then he led me to the

students. I had a large com-

munication as we started to

approach the students and began
to think, “oh no what is happen-

ning?” He said “This way to the

auditorium.” Auditorium?]

What do you mean? I began
to think that I thought it

would be a maximum of 60

students, some of which were

older than I, and 20 admin-

istrators and teachers.

They were all waiting for us

as their “special guest.”

I looked and the typical African

dinner table was waiting for me
dksi tablecloth, flowers and

The first thing I thought was “Are

you serious?” I realized right

away that my highly interac-
tive curriculum would in no

way work, and it was up to

me to say something enlight-

ening and meaningful for these

students who were right in the

middle of terms. Before my

introduction, I announced

that the first thing I was go-

ning to do when I arrived

at Shyira was go to a picture

so I lost on the first row

with the students and put my

paper hat made from a plastic

place. This was a great way to

get the students laughing and

lighten the air. I used about

5 minutes of my lesson plan,

told some entrepreneurship

stories and then related the

topic to them and Rwanda as

a country.

They seemed to enjoy it

when I opened it up for ques-

tions and asked some great

ones, and it didn’t go too ter-

rible. At one point I was asked

if I had any laughs and

laughed. I told them that I

would need a smaller group.

So now, I have the 2 old-

est grades and the very small

sum of 1300 students. Reflect-

ing on the situation gives me

such a mix of feelings; Why

is an American 20-year-old a

“special guest?” Why is she
given this uncomfortable level

of respect? Is it even rem-

arkable? In this situation, I

think that I didn’t know,

what to think of the whole

situation.

In thinking further, I realize

that the reason I had my way

with the headmaster at

Sunrise was in large part due
to the fact that I was an

American, Africa often feels

like faith; it raises many

more questions than answers.

Africa is a place of harsh

realities. People die all the time

at Shyira, the wounds of the

genocide are vast and deep.

Orphaned children are in

abundance, disease is ramp-

ant, and the conditions are
tough. A few days ago, I

watched a section of a 21-

year-old with twins, and last

year a 24-year-old female died

of aids. Death is real here and

always seems to be at my

length. This is frightening at
times but also changes your

outlook on death and life.

You begin to see death as part of the natu-

ral cycle of existence.

http://en.wikipedia.org/
/wiki/Reality_television
Classifieds

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**Babson Free Press**

**Martignetti Earns NEWMAC Player of the Week Honors**

Senior tri-captain Lauren Martignetti has been named the NEWMAC Women’s Lacrosse Player of the Week. It is the fifth time a Babson player has been honored by the conference this season.

In the 26-15 win over Mount Holyoke, Martignetti netted four goals and assisted another to lend the 10th-ranked Beavers to a 15-5 victory over Mount Holyoke - completing the team’s second straight regular season sweep of the NEWMAC. In addition to her five points on offense, Martignetti provided valuable defensive game, recording four groundballs, two draw controls, and a game-high four caused turnovers.

With Martignetti leading the way, Babson finished the regular season with a record of 13-2 overall and 6-0 in the conference, and has earned a bye in the opening round of the NEWMAC Tournament. The Beavers will now host the tourney starting at 2 p.m. on Saturday and the championships at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

**Blackburn Leads Track And Field**

2008 NEWMAC Championships

Sophomore star Lauren Blackburn became just the second female in Babson track and field history to earn All-Conference honors in the 400 hurdles.

April 26, 2008

**South Hadley, Mass.**

The Babson College men’s tennis team advanced to its fourth NEWMAC tournament match in eight years on Sat-urday, as the third-seeded Beavers topped second-seeded Springfield College, 5-4, in the semifinals before falling to eventual-champion Amherst in the finals of the conference tournament at Coast Guard.

One week after suffering a crushing 6-4 loss to Springfield, the Beavers returned the favor with a dramatic win over the tournament semifinalists. Babson picked up a quick point at number one doubles, as sophomores Alex Kamergordzov and Brian Lafayette earned an 8-5 win to improve to 7-0 in league play. However, Springfield took the final two doubles contests to carry a 2-1 advantage into singles play.

Singles play proved to be incredibly close, as four of the six matches were decided in three sets. Kamergordzov made quick work of his opponent, downing him 6-3, 6-1, but Trevor Romanzo grabbed a point at fourth singles for Springfield. Bobby Schlink then claimed a three-set victory at number five to make it 4-5, putting the Pride just one win away from the overall victory.

Babson’s rally started at num-ber three, where sophomores Ken Lin earned a 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 win at number three, Senior co-captain Sam Edick then evened the overall match with a 4-6, 6-2 victory at number two, and sophomore Edwin Lee completed the comeback win with a 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 triumph at six.

Despite the four-hour semi-final battle, the Beavers put up a valiant effort against the second-seeded MIT in the championship match. Edick and fellow sophomore Jack Gleadle co-owed the team’s point line-up with a 9-6 (6) win at number two, while sophomore Tinyt Tran pulled off close 8-5 wins in the one and three slots, including Kamergordzov and Lafayette’s first conference loss of the year. The Engineers then clinched the victory with wins at first, second, and fifth singles to earn their first straight NEWMAC Championship.

**Women’s Lacrosse NEWMAC Finals, Falls To MIT**

Beavers outlast Springfield, 5-4; lose to top-seeded Engineers, 5-1.

April 26, 2008

**LONDON, Conn.** - The Babson College women’s tennis team advanced to its fourth NEWMAC tournament match in eight years on Sat-urday, as the third-seeded Beavers topped second-seeded Springfield College, 5-4, in the semifinals before falling to eventual-champion Amherst in the finals of the conference tournament at Coast Guard.

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