

# ABSA

ASIAN BUSINESS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

# INFORMER

December 2008

Featuring...

Mr.  
McCombs  
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November  
MOTM and  
DOTM

A Designer  
Among Us





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December 2008

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



Hey everyone,

Here it is: our first Letter from the Editors. If you haven't met us yet, our names are Jasmin Sun and Lydia Byun. We're the new Informer Editors for the 2008-2009 ABSA year! We hope you liked the last Informer--we tried to create a new look for the publication. Hopefully you found it more professional and polished (that's what we were going for!).

For this issue, we wanted to add more member involvement (which is why we were harassing you at the Thanksgiving Potluck). We've added member spotlights, Q&A sessions with the Director and Member of the Month, as well as other interesting tidbits you otherwise might not know about some of the members in ABSA. We hope you enjoy these new additions as well the articles themselves. A *giant* thanks to everyone who submitted an article this semester--we truly would not have been able to put together the issues without your help!

Finally, we'd like to wish every one of you a very merry Christmas, and a fantastic and relaxing winter break. Stay safe, have fun, and most importantly, catch up on your sleep! See you next year!

Best,

Jasmin & Lydia



# PROFESSIONNL

Workshops, general meetings, and company field trips for the business-oriented.

## General Meeting #6: Deloitte



On October 23rd we had our sixth General Meeting with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in the usual GSB 2.124 room. The speakers for the day were Syed Zaidi and Kheang Ven from the Audit and Enterprise Risk Services of Deloitte's Houston office and Lawrence Lin, a consultant from the Houston office of Deloitte Consulting.

Syed Zaidi is an MIS graduate of the University of Houston. He worked at BMC Software for several years before joining Deloitte. He now works in the Audit practice. Kheang Ven, an MPA graduate at McCombs School of Business, interned at KPMG before joining Deloitte. Lawrence Lin graduated from Georgia Tech and worked at various management consulting firms before he joined Accenture and then moved to Deloitte Consulting. He is currently a consultant in health services.

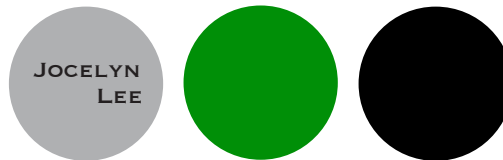
We started off our general meeting with announcements from the officers and then Khanh Vu introduced our speakers. Syed and Kheang started off with a Deloitte PowerPoint highlighting the operations and different service lines of Deloitte. Deloitte offers service lines in audit, consulting, financial advisory, risk management, and tax services to its clients. As one of the Big Four accounting firms, they actively recruit at UT for full-time and internship opportunities. After an introduction about Deloitte, the speakers opened up the floor for questions from ABSA members. We learned that Syed and Kheang both travel a lot in their work and have many interesting experiences. Syed once went to Mexico and experienced trouble with the government. Luckily, he got out safely at the last minute by catching a flight back to America while Deloitte's legal counsel resolved the problem. Many members stayed after the meeting to talk more with the Deloitte representatives.

TIMOTHY LEE

## Scotland Cultural Workshop

After spending hours at Shack-a-Thon, ABSAers headed over to Scotland on Wednesday, October 22nd for the first cultural workshop hosted by the Academic Branch! John Terada and Beini Xu (Workshop Director) had invited knowledgeable speakers to spread the Scottish culture to ABSA. Emilie Gallup, a Scottish student at McCombs, taught us about the different cities in Scotland, from the fairytale-like Edinburgh filled with windmills and castles, to the modern yet historic city of Aberdeen. Another student at McCombs, Steven Torres, told us about his "ridiculous" experience studying abroad in Edinburgh. His many pictures of the breathtaking scenery, the iconic hairy cow, and the birthplace of Harry Potter (so cool!) definitely convinced some ABSA members to study abroad in Edinburgh this summer. Thanks Academic Branch for bringing Scotland to ABSA!

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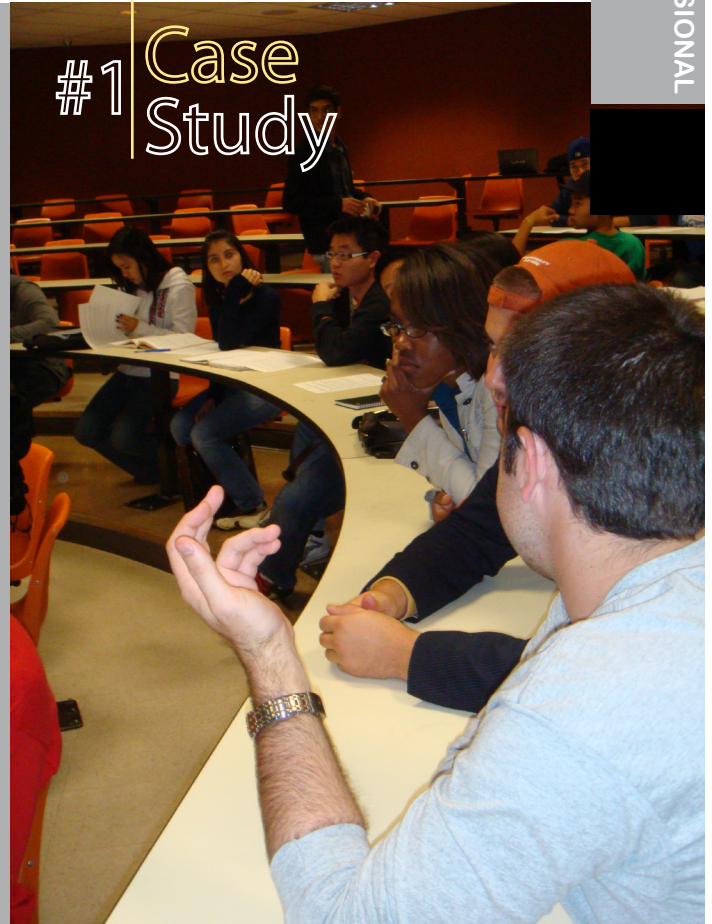


As a sophomore who hadn't even heard of case competitions before this year, I looked forward to getting a general idea of what they were about. Apparently, so were a lot of others. There were quite a few people at the meeting, many of whom didn't know much about case competitions either. We were all in the same boat.

Tiffany Wang and the executive branch started the meeting by welcoming us and making a few introductions. The older people at the meeting turned out to be the speakers for the workshop; one person explained case competitions and their general guidelines to us. I can't recall exactly what they said, but I do remember that case competitions sounded tough but interesting.

At some point, Tiffany introduced us to a panel of qualified individuals who had accomplished a lot through their success in case competitions. I was surprised at how qualified they were--one even got a job in investment banking from winning a case competition. The speakers all seemed to know the competition inside and out.

We asked questions, of course, as is befitting for a panel. One person asked about the Q&A section, and another person asked about putting together a team, but those weren't the most important things. The most important thing was that participating in a case competition sounded fun, exciting, and tough--all the things that I enjoy and look for in competitions. Other people must have felt the same way because they all showed up at the next case competition workshop as well. **BRIAN LI**



## Looking for New Music?

RECOMMENDED LISTENING



**Jasmin Sun:**  
Artist: Vox trot  
Album: Mothers, Sisters, Daughters, and Wives



**Jan Ma:**  
Artist: Ne-Yo  
Album: Year of the Gentleman



**Erica Chung & Jeremy Fang:**  
Artist: Taylor Swift  
Album: Taylor Swift



**Lydia Byun:**  
Artist: Big Bang  
Album: Remember



Tag! Jasmin Sun went to College Station and kept tallies during OU weekend with...

## Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is an organization that reaches out to children by introducing them to the business world. On October 24, ABSA had the opportunity to take part in Junior Achievement's mission by going to Hart Elementary to volunteer. Upon walking into the school, the sight of a bright and cheerful banner greeted us with the words "Lee, Cree, Logra," or "Read, Believe, Develop." The school consisted of mainly second-generation Spanish-speaking students whose educations were developed bilingually!

The day started early at 8 AM when students were just beginning classes. Entering the classrooms was thrilling and heartwarming, as many 3rd graders were excited and eager to get to know their new JA visitors. Elementary business models such as making decisions and categorizing industries were

taught by allowing students to build their own cities, draw maps of their classroom, and open their own restaurants! After each activity, we reviewed concepts with them and allowed them to show off their new knowledge by posing questions. During activities, I found it gratifying when I could understand what the students were saying to each other in Spanish. The seven years of Spanish classes all through middle school and high school paid off! It was certainly amusing when I shocked the students by answering questions they had posed to each other in their native language.

Overall, the entire experience was very hands-on and relaxing. The students were so eager to learn and to get involved. That kind of enthusiasm and energy truly creates a wonderful atmosphere to walk into.

**FELICIA TSAO**

# Investment Team Workshop #3

VISHAL KUMAR

The third Investment Team workshop of a series of workshops held throughout the year was held on Wednesday, October 29th. The topics that were covered in the workshop included accounting and Excel. In the accounting portion, Frank Yang and I first went over the basics of each financial statement. After setting a basic foundation, we went into a challenging accounting problem that is common in investment banking interviews. Although initially confusing for many, we were eventually able to navigate the eager ABSA students through the problem.

After the accounting problem, Jeff Pao led the group for the Excel portion. A good handle of Excel is not only important for investing careers but for most business related professions. Jeff went through a sheet of many different Excel shortcuts that saves an analyst precious time when working on projects. He then applied these to a worksheet to show the applicability of the shortcuts. Students really found this subject helpful. Overall, the students found the two subjects quite informative and look forward to future workshops. Said sophomore Felicia Tsao, "I love Investment Team workshops. Vishal is really cool."



## Case Study #2

BRANDON CHANG



The Asian Business Students Association and the Gay Business Students Association partnered together again to provide case competition advice to students in the business school. While the first case study workshop focused on the basics of a case competition: what a case competition is and how teams are formed, this workshop focused on financials, deliverables, and the Q&A section. Thanks to the cooperation between the two organizations, there were several experienced and successful case competition participants who were able to provide advice to those who attended the workshop. The information learned from the workshop was useful preparation for the ABSA Case Competition that was held on the following weekend.

Congratulations to the Executive Branch for a job well done!

ABSA held its annual Charity Service Auction at its seventh General Meeting. Members grew excited as the bidding began. At last year's auction, more than \$1000 was raised for the underprivileged youth of China. This year's proceeds will be donated to the charity of the highest bidder's choice.

Highlights of the high energy auction included Academic Vice President John Terada offering to teach basic Japanese and sushi-making, who was quickly bid on by his ABSA family Half-and-Half. Family Director Jan Ma auctioned off doing the bidder's laundry for 1 month, including great features such as pick-up, ironing, and delivery. Though

Jan did refuse to do undergarments, she offered to purchase the bidder's detergent of choice. Other great services that were auctioned off included ball retrieving on the basketball court for an hour, piano lessons, a professional photo shoot, and another laundry service but this time with undergarment care.

features such as chauffeuring on the day of the banquet, payment for hair appointments for the winning girl or group of girls, and even a massage. If a male wanted to bid, his winning date for the banquet, another key feature of the item, would be ABSA President Jocelyn Lee. The bidding war grew furiously between both individuals and groups of bidders. As the excitement escalated, the bids increased at a furious speed. In the end, Jocelyn bid on herself to end the madness.

The auction lasted the duration of a General Meeting and produced a nice sum for the charity of Jocelyn's choice, which will soon be decided.

## General Meeting #7: Charity Service Auction

ANN LIU

The auction ended with a grand finale. Financial Vice President Andrew Yoon and members of the financial branch offered a deluxe package of benefits for the End of Semester Banquet, including



## General Meeting #8: Target

Our eighth General Meeting this semester featured Target. After the usual ABSA announcements from the officers, Lee Wang, one of our professional directors, introduced Target campus representatives Paola, Paulina, and Tara. They began with an interactive Target trivia game in which the members won cool Target plush doggies and Target Frisbees for correctly answering the questions. Some trivia questions were: what is the Target dog's name and which state is Target NOT located in. The second question stumped the members and resulted in a prolonged guessing match. We finally learned that Vermont was the only state that Target did not operate in. Following the introduction, the Target representative spoke about the Target

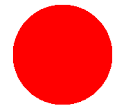
internship, which involves more than simply working as a store associate. The Target internship is more of a managerial experience where you manage many different aspects of a store. Additionally, Target has corporate opportunities available at its corporate offices. Following the discussion of Target opportunities, the representatives opened up the floor to questions and answered many questions about the recent McCombs case competition that Target sponsored. Target noted that the main aspects the judges focused on were the presentation and practicality of the solution. After the Q&A with the Target representatives, ABSA served delicious Fazoli's Italian food to the members.



TIMOTHY LEE



Ann Liu, who caught and ate fish with...



# Houston Company Field Trip

MOLLY SUN

It's been awhile since ABSA has been able to go back to Houston for a company visit, and this trip was better than ever! We were able to visit the headquarters of Wells Fargo, ConocoPhillips, and America's First National Bank!

We left bright and early Friday, November 7 from Littlefield Fountain and headed for Houston. Everyone dressed in business professional and looked very sharp. The first company visit, Wells Fargo, was scheduled for 12-2PM. There we met a couple of Wells Fargo representatives, who took turns telling us about their projects at Wells Fargo, the current economic situation, the opportunities available at Wells Fargo, and their internship and interview process. It was a Friday so everyone was dressed casually. In addition, they were really relaxed, laid-back, and fun! After the presentation, we had the chance to go up to the top floor of the building where we got a beautiful view of the entire city. Then, we got the chance to go down to the underground tunnel where we found an actual underground mall.

After we said goodbye to Wells Fargo, we headed toward the ConocoPhillips headquarters. Marjorie Chen, the ConocoPhillips recruiter, greeted us and brought us up to a presentation room. We were amazed at the size and design of the headquarters. The entire area was bright, white, clean, and filled with greenery. After providing us with food, ConocoPhillips gave us a presentation about the company as a whole: what it does, what its culture is like, and how the finance and marketing sectors work. Then, we got to visit one of the engineering rooms where we got to see the drilling process. The most exciting thing was that everything we saw was happening in real-time. Following that, we listened to a presentation of what it's like to be a first-time hire at ConocoPhillips as well as what the internship process is like. After the presentation we were able to view the brand new wellness center. In this short two hour tour of the company, we managed to explore the entire ConocoPhillips facility. After the tour of the wellness center, we got the opportunity to talk to some of the ConocoPhillips employees. They answered many of our questions and were extremely helpful. In addition, some of the members even won iPod Shuffles!

After the professional events, everyone was starving so we headed to China Bear while still dressed in business professional. We all stuffed our stomachs with delicious Chinese cuisine. Yum! At night, we stayed at Jocelyn's house in Sugar Land. Some watched Made of Honor while others gossiped. It was a very fun night with ABSA.

The next morning, we headed to the headquarters of America's First National Bank. Bruce Chang, the bank's CEO and president, greeted us and gave us a presentation about AFNB. Following the presentation, we were able to ask him questions. Mr. Chang also gave us a tour of the bank. The feel of AFNB was very different from that of Wells Fargo because it was a lot smaller and a lot more Asian. 85% of AFNB's customers are Asian, as well as most of its employees.

After visiting America's First National Bank, we met up with some ABSA alumni at Kim Son, and we all had dim sum. In addition, we had the opportunity to receive tips about college and insights about the work life from them. Right after lunch, we went to Houston's one and only Juice Box. Juice Box was the perfect ending to ABSA adventurous company field trip. Although everyone was tired, they all enjoyed the visit to Houston. Thanks for being so nice to us, Houston! Thank you as well, Wells Fargo, ConocoPhillips, and America's First National Bank!





# Ernst & Young Company Field Trip

MOLLY SUN



ABSA got the opportunity to visit E&Y's Austin office on Friday, November 14th. This experience was one that many members would never forget. Juhee Williamson, an E&Y Senior Manager and the coordinator of the company field trip, gathered more than 15 E&Y employees to meet with our group, which consisted of both ABSA and ALPFA students. This company field trip served as a wonderful opportunity for ABSA members to get to know ALPFA members and E&Y employees.

At 2:15PM, 17 ABSA students dressed in business professional attire gathered at Littlefield Fountain, ready to go to the E&Y Austin office located at Frost Bank. When we arrived at the office, Darin McNelis, a partner at E&Y, welcomed us. After that, two other E&Y employees talked to us about the inclusiveness at E&Y and the unique qualities of the firm that sets it apart from others. Following that, we were divided into 3 groups to take tours of the office. Each tour was led by an E&Y employee, who presented interesting facts about the office. The office was really quiet when we visited because it was a Friday, and the auditors were at the clients' site. When we came back to the conference room, we were welcomed by numerous E&Y employees, and all the students got a chance to network. It was heartwarming to know that the employees took time

out of their busy schedule to welcome us and answer our questions; it made us feel really important. At 4PM, Jason Belew, a partner, and Ansley Carruth, a manager who came to speak at the ABSA meeting the night before, gave us a presentation about careers in public accounting. They were engaging in their presentation, constantly asking the students whether or not they had questions. Finally, we had a panel consisting of five E&Y employees. Juhee served as the moderator of the panel, so she started off by asking a few questions. Then, she opened up the floor to the students, and we all got the opportunity to ask the panel about working at E&Y, the flexibility of hours, etc. At 4:55PM, Darin McNelis came and gave a closing remark for the students. Not only that, all of the employees there offered us words of advice, which were extremely helpful.

The overall set-up of the company visit was wonderful. Juhee did an amazing job making sure that all the ABSA and ALPFA members interacted with the E&Y employees. Many students said that they enjoyed the visit and gained knowledge about public accounting. Thanks to E&Y and Juhee for organizing this company field trip!

## Investment Team Workshop #4

ANDREW YOON

ABSA Investment Team wrapped up the semester with its final workshop on November 12th. This workshop covered financial modeling theory, which familiarized members with many of the concepts used by external users to assess a company's financial health. Such concepts included debt, equity, weighted average cost of capital, capital asset pricing model, beta, financial ratios, and much, much more. Those who wish to apply to the Investment Team next semester are suggested to use the knowledge they gained from these workshops, particularly this last one, and apply them in their application and interviews. Wendy Lin, one of the portfolio managers, led this workshop, and she did an excellent job interacting with the attendees and teaching them in a way that was easy and fun to understand. The Investment Team is a great asset to ABSA, and we hope that members take advantage of these workshops for their future careers and personal investments.



Jin Guo, who while working in the academic branch met...

# Fall 2008 Case Competition

CHARLES LAI

Congratulations to:



engineuity:

Brian Li, Robert Huynh, Wendy Lin, Eddy Fong



Fresh Innovation:

Henry Shi, Angela Eng, Grace Kim, Lee Wang



Neo Consulting:

Michael Yang, Brandon Chang, Justin Santos, Narin Sead



Thanks to Buick, ABSA had a successful Fall 2008 Case Competition! Because there were such intelligent participants, Buick was able to take something great away from each team. Great job to everyone who participated!

Joanna Chou

All nine teams arrived at MEZ 1.306 bright and early on a Saturday morning, sleep-deprived and eager to present the results of their long nights of hard work. For many teams, this case competition, sponsored by Buick General Motors, was their first foray into consulting.

The day started off with registration and a breakfast of Einstein's bagels, Starbucks pastries, and Krispy Kreme coffee generously sponsored by GMAC. After settling in, Executive Vice President Tiffany Wang kicked off the competition and commenced the preliminary rounds. While the judges consulted the first three rounds, the teams lunched on Jason's Deli and waited anxiously to find out whether or not they would advance to the finals.

After lunch and deliberation from the judges, the teams were whittled down to four finalists: Fresh Innovation, Neo Consulting, InnoTech, and engineuity. Fresh Innovation was considered an underdog team because it was comprised of all freshmen. Neo Consulting, ABSA's consulting team, was favored to bring home one of the three cash prizes. InnoTech was a dark horse team of mostly non-ABSA members. With an advantage in experience, engineuity was heavily considered a favorite.

For the final round, the teams would present to a panel of General Motors representatives. Each of the four teams presented interesting approaches on how to translate Buick's success in China to the United States. Teams presented ideas involving everything from Yao Ming to Chinese supermarkets. Each team brought a unique perspective.

After four impressive presentations, the judges placed the finalists. Second runner-up and \$250 went to ABSA's Neo Consulting. First runner-up and \$500 went to Fresh Innovation. The Buick Marketing Challenge Grand Prize and \$1,000 went to engineuity, with team members Eddy Fong, Wendy Lin, Brian Li, and Robert Huynh.

Congratulations to all of the ABSA participants and thanks to all of the Executive Branch, the volunteers, the judges, and General

## General Meeting #9

TIMOTHY LEE

For our ninth General Meeting on November 13, Ernst & Young came to present information about their firm and career opportunities within the company. After the usual announcements, E&Y representatives Stuty

Khara and Ansley Carruth took the stage after an introduction from Khanh Vu, one of the professional directors. Stuty and Ansley are both from the Austin office located in the Frost Tower in downtown. Stuty is from the Assurance and Advisory Business Services while Ansley is from the Technology and Security Risk Services. The E&Y presentation was very informal and relaxed as the representatives started off with a short background about them and then just opened up the floor to questions that any members had. Many members had questions about careers in public accounting and also about what public accounting was all about. We learned that public accounting is far from the

stereotypical "accountant in the corner" and is more about providing professional services to the client. This involves a lot of interaction with the client at the client site and requires significant interpersonal skills. Additionally, E&Y seeks to hire professionals who are diverse and come from a wide variety of backgrounds. E&Y is actually ranked by BusinessWeek as the #1 place to work and they strive to develop their employees for success in the firm. Following the insightful E&Y presentation, members were treated to Thundercloud Subs.



# Cultural Workshop: JAPAN

THU DOAN

On November 19, 2008, ABSA hosted its second cultural workshop of the semester about Japan. Speakers included graduate student Kanae Hirazawa and ABSA's own Academic VP, John Terada. The speakers covered topics about companies based in Japan, holidays, the language, technology and some things seen in everyday life. Presentation highlights included listening to random banters in Japanese between the speakers and watching John's calligraphy being corrected by Kanae. The audience also had the chance to play with a kendama. Kendama, a traditional Japanese toy, consists of a hammer-like object with a ball connected to it by a string.

The goal is to toss the ball so that it lands on one of the notches of the hammer. The room was broken up into two teams and each member had two chances to land the ball into one of the notches. Easier said than done. This simple game proved to be a challenge to everyone except for two people, Lusi Xiao and Beini Xu, who accomplished the difficult feat. Members also had the opportunity to indulge themselves in delightful Japanese treats. Some food featured at the workshop included Japanese candies, Pocky, rice crackers, tea, and, of course, sushi! Everyone who attended had fun and gained knowledge about Japan. Cultural workshop was a success!



ABSA brought back the old tradition of balloon-tower building during the last family event of the semester on Thursday, November 20, 2008. It was a great opportunity for all the members of each family to socialize and learn to collaborate.

Each family was first given a bag of balloons. The goal was to correctly answer as many of the questions that were shown on the projector screen. The questions came in a variety of forms. Some were close-ups of an item and families had to guess what the item was. Others were specific questions about TV shows and songs. Each family had to blow up a balloon for each question, write down their answer on the balloon, and get it checked by Jan. If their answer was wrong, their balloon was popped. However, if their answer was correct, they got to put the balloon into a bag so that they could

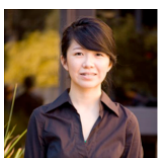
use it for the next stage of the game.

After the trivia round was over, the balloon-tower round began. Each family was given one roll of tape and given the task to build the tallest free-standing balloon tower. Some of the members were really afraid of the balloons popping so they didn't even touch the balloons. Others, however, loved to get into the action and were the masterminds behind the structure of each tower. The tallest tower came from a very unique and intelligent idea. It was in the shape of a spiral, kind of like a DNA. Not only was this tower the tallest and the most stable, but it was also the first one to be completed. The spiral made the tower balance out on each side. Props to the family who thought of this idea!

Overall, everyone had an amazing time at the family event. We all love this ABSA tradition!

## GM #10: Family Event

MOLLY SUN



Beini Xu, who was convinced to join FongMaLe while picking out an ABSA family by...

# SOCIALS VOLUNTEERING

Success is nothing without friendship and philanthropy.

LEE WANG

## Shack-a-Thon



Cold and Dreary – perfect descriptions of this year’s Shack-a-thon. Yet as everyone who came out knows, as torturous as it was, it was definitely a blast. Shack-a-thon is of course the annual “shacking” out in front of Gregory Gym. The event is hosted by Habitat for Humanity to raise awareness of substandard housing around the globe. The basic premise of the event revolves around different organizations building shacks out of cardboard and populating them for nearly three days, hopefully inciting people to donate to the cause. ABSA commandeered its own tent, and thus mayhem broke out on Gregory Plaza.

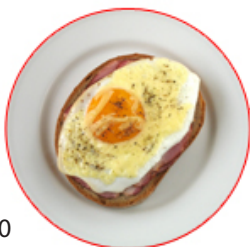
One thing that some might know, is that there is a law which disallows anyone from sleeping in random places on campus.

Supposedly to stop the homeless from sleeping on campus grounds and such, the law applied adversely to the shack dwellers. No sleeping for two nights? What should we do! Enter ABSA talent and ingenuity. Throughout the nights, the ABSA had a small crowd of devoted Shackers, but at times the population swelled to massive proportions. Random bouts of singing and guitar broke out in the wee hours of the morning. Midnight basketball and football kept some of the more athletic of us entertained, while movies and just small talk kept the rest of us sane.

Of course, the Shack was also packed during the day. Under the hot sun, ABSA members passed by and said hello. Some even dropped in to shack a bit to keep the more

permanent residents company. As the nights drew near though, attendance dropped. The second night was a night to remember. The wind was so strong that one organizations shack was almost blown apart multiple times, though ABSA’s masterpiece stayed strong. The temperature dropped to nearly 40 degrees, but the ABSA attendees stayed strong and braved the cold to continue the noble act of shacking.

The whole experience was one to be remembered, but we must all remember why we were there, and the cause we were supporting. Battling the cold, the wind, and the lack of electricity, those who shacked out surely deserve some applause, and those who did not shack, come out next year to enjoy the delicious delights of torture!



**Thu Doan** buys lots of energy drinks.

**Eric Tsang** goes on Facebook.

**Sally Zheng** digs through her room for notes.

**Felicia Tsao** goes to Whole Foods to stock up on snacks.

**Tovey Xu** eats eggs, sunny-side up with a piece of bacon to the left, so that it looks like a “100.”

**Pre-Exam Rituals**

The semester's old member retreat took place at a distant bowling alley that smelled of fajitas, stale nachos and feet. Held for 1+ year ABSA members, it was held kind of...right after the men's football game. Hence, it didn't really start for many members until 10 p.m., when it was scheduled to end. Those who showed up late cannot be blamed for they had the decency to shower after the football game. Which we won.

A third of the members ended up not bowling at all. I chose not to bowl because every time I do, my nails break. My real nails. It hurts. I probably need more calcium.

Bowling was probably not a welcome change from the usual Happy Hour for those weaker, lazier members.

The old lady working at the establishment constantly walked over to berate ABSA about 1. Not wearing the proper shoes, 2. Eating in the bowling area, and 3. Probably just being obnoxious. Maybe she was jealous of free food, free bowling and free bowling shoe rentals.

The average score of the night was 90, which may be a gross overestimate. Next time an old member retreat involves bowling, let's make it on the Wii.

## OLD MEMBER RETREAT

EMILY TAO



New Member Retreat. It's the unofficial induction into ABSA. It's the beginning of making acquaintances that might blossom into friendships. It's the spark that lights up the devotion and commitment for the club. Besides the fact that it was over a month late due to inclement weather, I'm sure it still served its purpose. New Member Retreat was different this year from those in the past. It was held at Zilker Park, and we did much more than just play Capture the Flag...

The first distinct memory I have of New Member Retreat is of people climbing trees, or more accurately, people failing to do so. There was a tree whose trunk was tilted at an angle so that you could basically climb up the trunk on your hands and feet... if your shoes had the grip of a death claw. Apparently, Lee and Henry's shoes did. Everyone else slid down the trunk with their bottoms in the air while they desperately tried to climb up.

While all the games brought out the must-win-at-all-costs competitive spirit that seems to be inherent in us Asians, a certain few stood out to me in particular. One game, for instance, was the Gimme Game.

In the game, Jocelyn stands in the front of the group and says things like, "Gimme an ant," and the first team who has a member successfully run up and give her an ant gets a point.

Another highlight of the day was the Balloon Pop game. Everyone begins the game with a different-colored balloon tied to their ankle. The objective of the game is to pop the different colored balloons while protecting the balloons that are the same color as your own. All of the Yellow team died within the first 5 minutes--Henry, Lee, and Kevin played the game in a tree, and Jacklyn was the sole survivor of the green team for the longest time before she tripped and sat on her own balloon. After a splendid lunch of pizza came more games. The next highlight of the day: the Egg Toss. Classic, dirty, messy, and fun. What more can you ask for? The last game of the day was, of course, Capture the Flag.

I'd like to thank the officers for organizing such a fun and successful event. For you new members that missed out on such a great day: that's too bad, but at least you get to read about it in this awesome article.



## NEW MEMBER RETREAT

LUSI XIAO



Eddy Fong, who went to an ABSA volunteering event and was called names by...



## Longhorn Halloween

SANDY DUONG

After the Director Retreat on Sunday, October 26, a few directors and I rushed to the Frank Erwin Center for an early dose of Halloween at the annual Longhorn Halloween event. UT faculty and staff bring their children for a day of carnival booths, candy, and general Halloween fun. All the kids were dressed up in their Halloween costumes. There were plenty of Transformers, mummies, princesses, and witches. ABSA held a “Boo-sketball” booth where kids tried to throw a “ghost” into a basketball hoop. The game was actually much harder than it looked because the ball was so bouncy. Some of the little ones made beautiful slam dunks (with a little help from Mommy or Daddy). A couple of the kids were afraid of the “ghost” and were unwilling to play the game, but many children came back to the booth multiple times to play again. In the middle of all the excitement, some of us took a break and went exploring to see what other organizations were doing. Although there were many face-painting booths, some arts and crafts, a haunted house, and even a fire truck, I am happy to say that no other booth had a basketball game! At five o’clock, after a long ABSA-filled day, we packed up the basketball hoop, took some leftover candy, and headed home to do homework and study.



## HAUNTED HOUSE

NATHAN CHIANG

On a brisk night, a group of fearless ABSA members (along with some timid ones) arrived at Highland mall to stare down monsters and ghouls. The House of Torment stood looming in the distance guarded by a terrifying dragon and surrounded by a barricade of scary monsters. Despite all these things, we pressed onward to see what this dark dungeon had in store for us. Slowly but surely, groups of 5-6 people at a time disappeared into the dark fog with only faint screams of terror to be heard.

Around every dark corner lurked danger. Chainsaw murderers, flying bats, psycho clowns, and undead spirits appeared from thin air and made their dreadful intentions known. Perhaps the most dangerous monsters were the ones with extremely bad breath. That’s one thing that can’t be faked, and it was no joke. Eventually, we made our way out of the dark maze and into safety... or so we thought. The wolf-man was waiting. The most distressing monster of the night ended up being the gnarling wolf-man who roamed the parking lot, preying on the innocent. Just ask Lusi. After beating the wolf-man into submission with my crutch, we captured the night in standard ABSA fashion by taking a group picture with the wolf-man in front of the dragon at the entrance. The night ended up in smiles instead of screams, and once again, ABSA members disappeared into the dark night to raise their own ghoulish havoc.



## ABSA! What do you hunger for?

FAVORITE THANKSGIVING DISH

**Angela Eng** – Mashed Potatoes

**Grace Kim** – Cranberries & Rolls

**Erica Chung** - Pumpkin Pie

**Jocelyn Lee** – Pecan Pie, Honey Ham

**Anna Huynh** – Stuffing without Onions

# Starbright Volunteering

MOLLY SUN

ABSA participates in many volunteering events every year, and this year was no exception. Last year, many members wanted to volunteer at a school carnival, and this year, we were finally able to do so. This year's carnival volunteering event was at Starbright Preschool. On the morning of Halloween, eight ABSA members gathered in front of Littlefield Fountain to go to Starbright Preschool. Everyone was excited to play with the little kids, and their excitement was not met with disappointment when they arrived at their destination. Starbright Preschool is a private preschool started by Jean from her own home for local Austin children.

We arrived at Starbright at 9AM, and were immediately put to work. The children had yet to arrive, so we helped to set up the booths and tables. While some hung apples on trees, others used sponges to wipe tables. The best part was when the children came out in a single file line, dressed in the cutest costumes ever! One little boy and girl dressed up as a pizza slice and a pumpkin. One girl couldn't stop taking pictures of the kids!

When the carnival began, we split up into four teams. Some were in charge of the fish pond, where the kids fished for prizes, and some were in charge of the duck pond, where the kids tried to fish as many rubber ducks as they could. One group took care of the Magic Hand booth, where a magic hand extended from behind the box and gave the child a shell, and another group was in charge of the pumpkin decorating booth. There were so many children and parents in the playground that the entire place was filled with excitement! The children loved it, the volunteers loved it, the parents loved it, and the owners loved it. What else was there to ask for?

After three hours of exhausting but fulfilling work, we arrived back on campus. Needless to say, Starbright Preschool Volunteering will become an ABSA volunteering tradition.



Starbright Volunteering



Mentorship Social #1

## Mentorship Social #1

JOHN TERADA

The first mentorship social meeting was on Tuesday, October 21 at the UTC. This meeting was the launching of the great ABSA tradition called the mentorship program. It provides ABSA members a chance to get to know business professionals from a variety of companies and get advice on a number of things. Knowing the benefits of being part of the mentorship social, I definitely was not going to miss the great opportunities this year as well. Many, new and old ABSA members, attended the event ranging from all grades, and got acquainted with the mentors throughout the event. Some mentors had been mentors before, but some were new to this entire program. Here, students and mentors got to know each other in a casual way, and a fun and interactive game made it even more enjoyable. The challenge was to create and present a skit about what is the most important lesson to learn in college. The judges were scoring on things like creativity and originality of the skit, and this caused many groups to really think outside the box. The presentations were definitely insightful, providing advice to be well-rounded and balancing school work and fun. Of course, my team won! Some were just plain outrageous, like Frank trying "new" things. In any case, it was all fun and games. Afterwards, students mingled with mentors and submitted applications as to which mentor they would like to get to know more for future mentorship socials. By the end of the event, everyone seemed very satisfied to have met with mentors that were personable and provided really great advice on professional career development and life in general. I sure had a great time!



Michelle Ly, who went to Leader Shape last January and met...



## Angela Huang

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT  
:: HANDBAG DESIGNER



### How did you first get into designing bags?

I sewed my first bag as a birthday gift to a friend. I had just learned how to use a sewing machine, and I actually made it more difficult than I had to because I decided to make a reversible bag, but it turned out pretty decent.

### Why did you choose to design bags vs. any other type of accessory, or even clothing?

I've actually made clothing before as well, like shorts, skirts, shirts, and accessories like laptop covers and sunglasses pouches. But I enjoy making bags because they were the simplest to design, and because they don't need to be a certain size, so anyone who likes it can use it.

### What inspires the designs for your bags?

Typically the fabric. I usually buy the fabric first, and then figure out what I'm doing with it later. Also, I get a lot of ideas from online stuff from crafster.org and other Etsy shops.

### Who is your ideal customer?

People who value originality and quality. Also, students that are looking for practical stuff. I started making bags for taking my books to class, and I've tried to keep that practical mentality whenever I design items.

### Who is your favorite designer? Any particular reason why?

Amy Butler. She designs textiles and sewing patterns for bags, clothing, and accessories. I admire her because she started as a DIY designer and now owns a successful company. Her patterns are also inspirational. Check out amybutlerdesign.com!

### If you had to choose five words to describe your personal style, what would they be and why? (They can be names of people who inspire your style as well)

Comfortable, Classic, Simple, Indie, and Natalie Portman

## Fitness Friday

CRYSTAL COOPER



Only three members showed up to the first Fitness Friday. In an effort to get more people involved I was told to do a demonstration at the next general meeting. Immediately after I began the demonstration, I could tell I had made a huge mistake. All over the room I saw faces drop as I led Tim through my favorite plyometric routines, which involved walking around the room in a push-up position, and occasionally dropping from that stance into push-ups or knee-to-elbow touches.

Amazingly, a few brave souls did show up the next day, but after a grueling 30-minute plyometric routine, I could see a few faces secretly vow never to return. Unfortunately I was correct in this assumption, and the next Friday I was back to square one, with the same three members showing up to work out. At this point I figured that maybe it was my who was missing the whole purpose of Fitness Friday. After all, it wasn't meant to be some horrible boot camp routine, but rather a time to combine both fitness and fun in a group setting. Armed with my new revelation, I created an entirely new, and improved, routine for the next Fitness Friday.

During the first 30 minutes at Clark Field, we ran a mountain—a cardio training exercise where we would run down the field once, then run back three times, and then run back five times, and so on. Sadly a few didn't make it to the next "fun" 30 minutes because they were too tired from the first part. Even though she was in immense pain, Sandy vowed to return to a Fitness Friday, but suggested that I water down the exercise for next time. After taking what she said into consideration, we all agree now that Fitness Friday is a much more pleasant event to look forward to.

Fitness Fridays were a huge learning process for me, as well as for all the members. I have personally learned that it isn't about how many push-ups you can do, or how fast you can run down the field, but rather, it is about taking the unpleasant idea of fitness and making it an enjoyable experience for everyone.





# Alumni Paintballing

JAE LEE

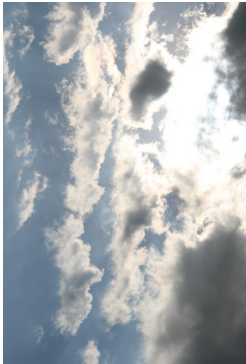
As I stepped out on my way to Littlefield fountain, I felt the warm rays of sunlight beating upon my jean-clad outfit. Perhaps I should have worn shorts. Shrugging off the stray thought, I arrived at the meeting location, where I once again observed a large cluster of Asian people. Before me was a plethora of faces. Old faces. New faces. Anxious ones. Excited ones. Regardless, we were all waiting for one thing and one thing only: Alumni paintballing, possibly the single most anticipated event of ABSA's fall semester. After all, what other event offers blood pounding, chaotic, gut wrenching, in-your-face action?

When we arrived at our destination, all the members quickly formed a line to obtain their gear and the almighty rental gun. Rentals are known to have deviations in accuracy up to 90 degrees, infamous feed issues, with severe shortcomings in effective firing ranges, but these rentals put everyone on a level playing field. Everyone, that is, except for the individual who happened to bring his WDP Angel LCD marker. The attendees were quickly divided into two teams, with a fair distribution of veterans and beginners on both teams. After a brief rundown of the rules, we headed out to the field and initiated our first game, where I found a disturbing lack of cover fire and communication in our team. We were decimated. Determined to make up for the first game, I held a quick pre-game briefing with my team.

Pairing up with Will Tran, this game went much more to my liking, as my team quickly and efficiently won the game. Then I encountered Yao Lin. This man is just plain beastly. If I had any doubts of his skill, the next game erased those doubts. Playing upon a rather poor field with no cover, Yao was quickly left as the only man standing on his team. No team. No support. No problem. He went on to single-handedly dominate the game, ending it with an absolutely inhuman over-the-barrel jump tap.

Everyone who attended played well, but more importantly, everyone had fun. Of course, we all obtained a fair number of nice, circular welts and bruises that day. What's paintball without battle scars anyway?

Exhausted, but with smiles on our faces, we put up our gear and compared battle wounds as the event came to a close. After quickly lining up to take a group picture, we got into our rides and headed home. On a final note: Jocelyn, next time you have to play. You kept getting shot anyways, so you might as well shoot back next time.



## Girls! What do you want for Christmas?

- Jan Ma: "A new non-Macintosh laptop"
- Jin Guo: "A Sex-and-the-City-Style shoe closet"
- Ann Liu: "Another dog"
- Won-Joo Kim: "A red Bottega Veneta purse"
- Jasmin Sun: "A digital drawing tablet"



Fenny Jie, who went to the same elementary, middle, and high school with...



## Birthday Bash

The McCombs School of Business turned another year older in grand style. There were free games, free food, and free prizes at the annual Birthday Bash in the Atrium. Each business organization set up its own booth that played to the carnival theme, and ABSA had a basketball one! Anyone who wanted to try their skills got the chance to try to make 5 baskets in a row to win dvds and gift cards. Those who didn't quite make it got to walk away with candy and fun. Birthday Bash brings different business organizations together each year, and this year we put on one great party!

# Mr. McCombs

JOCELYN LEE

With Nathan Chiang taking 2nd place in Mr. McCombs 2006 and Julian Maldonado taking the Mr. McCombs crown in 2007, Peter Nguyen had some pretty big shoes to fill at this Mr. McCombs Pageant. ABSA came with posters, ready to cheer for Mr. ABSA. The lights dimmed as 12 handsome men representing organizations from the business school ran on stage to show off their dance moves. The ABSA crowd went crazy as Peter danced on stage to “In the Ayer” (Flo Rida), “American Boy” (Estelle ft. Kanye West), and “Swing” (Savage ft. Soulja Boy). The night started off with toga wear. We saw all kinds of different toga styles, from Peter’s hippie, tie-dyed toga, to Mr. DSP’s gangster toga, to Mr. Alfa’s cowboy toga. As usual, we screamed our heads off to show our love for Peter! For the talent portion, Peter surprised everyone with a field-goal made of butcher paper and had his own field-goal-kicking competition. Other participants serenaded the crowd with their sweet voices, rapped, played guitar, did stand up, and even danced while making an omelet. Following the talent portion was Formal Wear, where each contestant got a chance to model their suits.



Peter’s look was simple and classy, and Marie looked gorgeous as his escort! The night ended with the Question portion of the competition. Peter’s question was tough: “Are you a Mac or a PC?” And to that, he answered quickly, “Well I’d have to say that I’m a Mac, because PCs have lots of viruses. And... I ain’t got no viruses!” After the judges deliberated, we were all anxious to see who would be crowned Mr. McCombs 2008. Julian was there (in basketball shorts and a t-shirt, as always) to pass on the crown. In third place was Mr. UBC Alan Goldstein. PETER NGUYEN TOOK THE SILVER!! Mr. DSP Vikas Bhrahmbhatt took the title of Mr. McCombs 2008. Overall, it was an exciting night filled with laughs, fun, and tons of cheering. We all knew Peter would represent ABSA well! Congrats to Peter for doing an amazing job at the pageant!



## Charity Food-Eating Contest

JAN MA

It was a dark and windy afternoon on Friday, November 14th when the volunteers of ABSA and the External Branch set up the Charity Food Eating Contest at Gregory Plaza. No matter how daunting or sketchy the weather proved to be, the eating contest was still scheduled to occur. Around 10 contestants lined up for the challenge, but in the end, only one would come out on top. All the contestants were allotted five minutes to eat as many hot dogs (and their buns) as they could. Seeing that I was the only female in the competition, I was determined to beat out all the guys and win the competition. The competition started promptly at 6:30pm. When we got our signal to begin, everyone started stuffing their faces as quickly as they could. Trying to eat as

many hot dogs as you can in five minutes might seem pretty easy after the first hot dog, but after hot dogs number three and four, you really start to lose steam. Or at least, I started to. With only 15 seconds left, I had finished my fifth hot dog but refused to eat another. The winner came finished with a total of eight hot dogs consumed in the five minutes. I could only finish five hot dogs, but I am proud to say I beat a couple of the other male competitors in the contest. After the hot dog portion of the Charity Food Eating Contest, we moved on to the Fruit-by-the-Foot competition, where competitors had to finish three rolls as fast as they could. The winner of that contest was our ABSA’s very own Mr. Anthony Kwan. I’m totally looking forward to next year’s Charity Food Eating Contest!



## Hue Dang

member of the month

### Why did you decide to join ABSA?

It sounded like something that would help me in the future, not to mention a great opportunity for social networking.

### How has ABSA helped you?

I was able to make a lot of new friends. Also, the boy ratio in my life has gone up considerably.

### What do you enjoy most about going to all the events? What has been your favorite event so far at this point in the semester?

I look forward to seeing all the people! I love going to family (Ménage à Twang) events of football games.

### If you could choose three people or items to take with you on a deserted island, who/what would they be and why?

A picture of my family, because I'd miss them. A diary, so that I'd be able to record all my experiences, and clothing—especially a bikini so that I'd be able to go into the water.



Shara Ma, who has known her whole life and lived in the same room for 12 years with...

## MENTORSHIP SOCIAL#2

The ABSA Mentorship Program definitely took it up another notch this year, ending the semester with a super fun-filled event on Monday, November 17th, at 6:30PM.

As the mentors and mentees gathered together in the Special Events Room on the third floor of the business school, anticipation filled the room as to what exactly the “challenge” was going to be. When it was announced that the challenge was to build a dessert sandwich, every team, each consisting of a mentor and his/her mentees, was extremely excited and ready to start. Before the challenge began, delicious Fazoli's was provided for everyone. ABSA-ers definitely did not let the food go to waste; they dived straight into the spaghetti and meatballs.

When the competition started, everyone raced to the table to grab as many materials as they could. It was as if wild animals had been unleashed. Some grabbed for the strawberries while others headed for the candy plates. Soon almost everything on the table was gone, and each team started building their sandwiches. The sandwiches produced were magnificent; they were definitely beyond anyone's expectations. One group made candy/bread sushi rolls, while another group made pancake-style sandwiches. There were so many creative ideas and so many delicious sandwiches created in such a short amount of time! The judges were really impressed with the results, and deciding on a winner proved to be difficult.

This mentorship social was a tremendous success with a great turnout of mentees and mentors. Not only did everyone have the chance to make some delicious desserts, but they were also able to see their mentors in a completely different light. *Molly Sun*



## PROJECT REACHOUT

Last year, ABSA lent a hand at Matthew Elementary School by doing some landscaping, as well as some cleaning for them. This year, ABSA was able to help the school prepare for an upcoming performance.

On Saturday November 15, 2008, ABSA-ers gathered at Littlefield Fountain, ready to volunteer. Many people were tired, but when they arrived at the school, they were excited to help out. From constructing a drum-set and painting John Travolta the Disco King, to moving boxes to the storage shed, ABSA were ready and willing to help. All the members were scattered around, doing a variety of volunteer work. The five individuals who helped put the drum set together were dubbed the “Engineers of the Future.” They assembled drum-set parts to construct a really amazing-looking Beatles drumset for the children to use during their Fall performance. All the girls were really excited. Other ABSA-ers were responsible for cutting out music notes to put on a drapes for the stage. While the girls showed off their craft skills and cut out lots of perfect-looking music notes, most of the guys were able to use their strength to carry heavy boxes to the storage room. A lot of the members had a lot of fun volunteering with each other.

Project Reachout was a great opportunity to bring out the inner child in all of us. Hopefully we will get the opportunity to volunteer again next year!

*Molly Sun*



**ICE SKATING SOCIAL**

In the spirit of winter, ABSA took to the ice at Chaparral Ice in Northcross mall for the ice skating social. Members laced up their skates and crossed their fingers as they prepared to get on the rink, some for the first time in years. Because so many people were inexperienced skaters, most people separated into groups, holding hands and linking arms to keep themselves steady. Girls and guys alike pretended they had no skating experience just to get close to that special someone. While several members were guilty of this shameless flirting, many simply weren't skilled ice skaters. Members fell down again and again, but with the help of friends, eventually got their bearings. Even though many people were novices on the ice, a few displayed their talent throughout the night. Freshman Courtney Chen dazzled onlookers with her acrobatic spins and fancy footwork. She performed like a young Michelle Kwan and ended her performance with a double axle that left spectators in awe.

The ice skating social was a great opportunity for members to mingle, whether they were racing one another or just gliding slowly around the rink. Many people learned new tricks like spinning or skating backwards and it was certainly good practice for the broomball match that coming Sunday. **Andy Wong**



**KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL**

Arriving at 30th Street and Guadalupe on November the 22nd, ABSA members were armed with gloves, litter pick-up tools, and bags. It was once again time for another Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB), a community service project where ABSA members volunteered to clean up the streets from 30th to 38th on Guadalupe. Although there were complaints about the shortage and limited size of gloves, we were eventually ready to start picking up the trash on Guadalupe Street. Not too long after our group had started moving, we separated into two groups, one for either side of the street. Although I had at first tried to pick up every cigarette on the ground, I found this to be futile as there were simply too many! As we walked along the street, we started to only pick up large pieces of trash such as tire pieces, newspaper, plastic bags, etc. For those with litter pick-up tools, this was a breeze; however, some were not fortunate enough to get a tool, and used their hands instead. The rest of the group held bags for everyone to dispose of the litter they found. At the front of the group, it was a competition to see who could find the largest and best pieces of trash. Some notable pieces of trash included a baby sized Croc shoe and bicycle mirrors. Time flew by as we scrambled around looking for litter. Eventually we ended up in front of Starbucks with the ABSA KAB sign. We took a group of picture and concluded another great volunteering event!

**Robert Huynh**



**Alice Fang**  
director of the month

**Why did you decide to join ABSA?**  
Because of Erica. And my friends.

**How has ABSA helped you?**  
I've made a lot of new friends, but now I also have a lot less free time.

**What made you apply for the Internal Director position this year? How do you feel now that you're Co-Social Director?**  
I applied for the position on a whim. Being Co-Social Director is a lot of work, but it is good to be able to see all your hard work paying off [when a lot of people attend the event.]

**If you had to choose five words to describe yourself, what would they be?**  
Adventurous, Fun, Talkative, Social, Hungry

- Timothy Lee: "A Blackberry Storm"
- Justin Santos: "A new car (Lexus IS)"
- Danny Mao: "A Nintendo Wii"
- Khang Huynh: "A Pea Coat"
- Jeremy Fang: "A Ski Trip"

**Guys! What do you want for Christmas?**

# Thanksgiving Potluck

CHARLES LAI

Although some ABSA families slaved away in the kitchen while others discreetly shopped at HEB, all of them came together to celebrate Thanksgiving. Families arrived at the Ballpark Clubhouse in packs with two things on their minds: which family would lead the others in getting food and whether or not OU would beat Texas Tech.

There was some initial uncertainty in determining which family would eat first, but when members saw the crackers laid out in bowls on the ping-pong table, the questioning ceased. Each family elected a representative to devour a bowl of crackers, and the family's representative who could successfully finish the crackers and whistle would earn his or her family a spot at the front of the line. Before a minute could even pass, Michael Yang whistled, signaling MénaJáTwang to the front. Every other family had to fend for themselves, huddling around the beginning of the line in a chaotic mass. The group slowly funneled into a line and ultimately, all the ABSA members were served by the officers generous plates full of biscuits, mashed potatoes, dirty rice, creamed corn, casserole, turkey, and pie.

Throughout the dinner, everyone huddled around the television screens eagerly hoping to see an OU victory over Texas Tech. There was excitement and celebration after the first Oklahoma touchdown. The momentum slowly died with each subsequent touchdown and field goal. Due to a lofty lead by OU after each quarter, the winner was evident. As a result, members focused less on the game and more on spending quality time with one another. Many photographs were taken to document the event and some members scurried over to the quieter side of the clubhouse to enjoy one another's company with board games such as Taboo. At the end of the night, everyone was satisfied with both the food and the OU victory.



Thanksgiving Potluck



Broomball

# Broomball

ERIC TSANG

It's November 23, 2008, and it's colder inside than it is outside. After standing, waiting, and shivering, we decide to go onto the ice to warm up. Soon, HBSA arrived and the game was about to begin. Everyone put on helmets, grabbed a stick, and took to the ice. After a short explanation of the rules by one of our wonderful referees, Monica, the game finally starts.

I can hear the cheers and support coming from the sidelines, especially the laughter when people fall. Everyone plays hard and falls hard. I especially notice Jan really getting into the game. There is so much dedication from our team. From defense to offense, we put all we have into trying to score and keeping from getting scored on. Every time the ball is on our side, the other defender and I work tirelessly to make sure it does not get near Julian and the goal post. Though our offense tries their best to hit the ball into the goal, but HBSA has a good defense as well and saves the ball several times. An injury sidelines Michael for the rest of the game, but we fight on. The ball goes back and forth between the opposing sides as the game progresses without a goal. Eventually the woman at the rink calls time and the game ends in a scoreless tie. ABSA plays very well and we are on the offensive more than we are on the defensive. Though we don't score, we still have our psychological victory.

When the game ends we congratulate HBSA on the good game and proceed to return our equipment. Afterwards we get off the ice to take pictures of our group, as well as with HBSA. We all leave slightly disappointed with the tie-game, but proud because we played harder and better than our competition.



Her sister, Jan Ma, who went to IM football practice and met one of her first freshmen ABSA friends...

# INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Bonding through teamwork and a mutual competitive spirit.



The past two months have been a dream season for ABSA men's intramural football team. During regular season play, the team finished 3-1 with three defensive shutouts. As playoffs rolled around, confidence soared.

In the first round, ABSA posted yet another shutout, winning 18-0. However, round two was a different story. After falling behind 13-7, the team rallied to score in the final ten plays and won 14-13. The team was now in the semifinals along with ABSA's co-ed squad. What made this strong showing even more impressive was the fact that ABSA's football teams had never made the playoffs before, and suddenly the teams were one victory away from being in the championship game.

Babe Ruth once said that "you may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." This epitomizes what the team had been able to do. Selfishness had never been a problem on this team. In fact, most of the competition ABSA faced probably had better overall skill sets and athleticism. Opponents often towered over ABSA's players, yet our team dominated by playing much more cohesively.

So what happened in the semifinals? After suffering a demoralizing defeat in the co-ed game, many of the players immediately began preparing for the men's game. However,

it appeared that the team's spirit had already been broken. Somehow, what had been the team's greatest strength became its weakness. The defensive unit that had been so dominant suddenly lost its fire. Chemistry that had been so fluid throughout the season now reached its limits. To make matters worse, the starting quarterback suffered a leg injury, while the star pass-rusher had multiple cramps after being fatigued from playing back-to-back games.

Things that had come so naturally during previous games became nearly impossible to do.

Unfortunately, the men's team fell one hour after the co-ed team fell, ending a spectacular season for ABSA. For the players, the loss was painful, but the experience they gained was invaluable. A quote by Steve Young states "the principle is competing against yourself. It's about self-improvement, about being better than you were the day before." Having made it to the semifinals, expectations are running high for next season. With the majority of the starters and key reserves returning, there is no doubt that our team is legit. Congratulations for an amazing season!



## Men's Football Playoffs

Justin Liao



# Co-Ed Football Playoffs

*Courtney Chen*

Throughout each and every football game, screams of die-hard ABSA fans could continuously be heard on and off the field. With this immense support from members and the outstanding determination from the team, ABSA's co-ed football team unsurprisingly entered the playoffs this year.

Suffering only one loss previous to playoffs, the team was full of confidence coming into their first official playoff game. The game was close, but in the end, ABSA proudly came out victorious. However, the pride of winning was replaced with worry even before the second playoff game began. With the random times set up for playoffs games, schedule conflicts arose, and our co-ed team struggled to round up a decent amount of players for the game. With the bare minimum amount of girls and hardly more guys, the next game was sure to be an intense and physically exhausting one. In the end, our co-ed team did not falter and completely shut out the opposing team.



Our third game determined whether or not ABSA would advance to finals, and the chosen opponent was FSA. Well-organized with many key players, FSA was the team to beat. The co-ed team put forth all their effort, but loss of players due to injury at various times during the game caused this game to not be our best. Our team members played their hearts out, but still, they suffered a loss and the season came to an end. Though the IM championship slipped through our grasps this year, next year will bring on new challenges. However, one thing will never change: our determination, strength, teamwork, and thirst for victory.

## IM Co-ed Volleyball



The Coed IM Volleyball team of the fall 2008 season had the stamina to make it to the playoffs, but it just couldn't gain enough steam to win the championship. Practice turnouts were good but what ABSA really needed was improved focus on the courts and better communication between the players. All the fundamentals of a great team were there, but since the members of this year's team were fairly new, the chemistry on the court wasn't quite right. Of course, there was always a crowd of loyal ABSA spectators cheering the team on as they played their matches. The crowd's constant cheering and support seemed to help the IM team perform better in their second games of each match.

Some of the returning players from past seasons were: Monica Nguyen, William Tran, Nathan Chiang, Sally Huynh, Marie De Los Santos, Fenny Jie, and myself (Jan Ma). A couple of new faces were juniors David Chen, Crystal Cooper, Hyoshin Kim and sophomore Justin Liao. Several of the new freshmen team members included: Courtney Chen, Hue Dang, Andrew Wong, and Angela Huang. With some existing talent in the sport and a little more practice, ABSA has high hopes for the next IM Volleyball season.



Van Dang, who met in ABSA the first girl who could eat as much as him...



# SHOUTOUTS

## Jocelyn Lee

### Graduating Seniors:

**Dha:** DAVID-SHI!! I can't believe you're leaving already!! Come back to visit soon so we can catch up and get more meals

together. Watch my senior farewell to you! And just watch..it will be longer than 1 month. I'll prove you wrong! Don't forget about our 29 deal, lol! <3

**Julie Le:** I'm sad you're graduating... you will always be my ABSA mom (even though our family didn't do THAT much stuff together). Watch my senior farewell to you! Sarah and I were funny in that :). I hope you come back to visit ABSA in the spring and say HI to us. <3

**Tony Wang:** Can't believe you're graduating. I hope you think of me the next time you're in Austin ;). I'll be 21 the next time you see me, but I will most likely give you the same answer as always when it comes to that stuff, haha! Hope you like rejection :D, jk! Come back and visit. <3

**Officers:** Half of the year is over, and I can't believe it! It really did fly by... probably because we had so much fun. Looking forward to another great semester of officer bonding and fun officer meetings :)

**Tiffany:** Lol I always start with Exec. Thanks for everything that you do!! I'm so proud of you and how you're able to keep on top of your game when you have so much going on. \*makes a flat face.

**Tim:** The strict Asian Dad of the officer panel, lol. You're going to like the gift I bought for you ;). Talk to you on g-chat soon.

**Erica:** PHEW. It's been a crazy semester for Internal, and you've done a great job with it! Congrats for parallel parking for the first time by yourself! I still need to learn, lol.

**Monica:** Man..FACR, Stat, and Finance have been crazy this semester. I can't wait until recruiting season starts... not really. I appreciate all the time and hard work you put in for ABSA. You're my hero for doing all these things at once!

**Felicia:** \*makes a flat face. LOL..I'm sorry about what happened! But we are here for you WHENEVER you need us! Seriously. I really appreciate all the time and efforts you put in for ABSA. Keep it up :)

**John:** You're SO NICE, John Terada. You have so much patience for everything, and I don't know how you do it. Thanks so much for a great semester, and I know Academic Branch is going to be even more amazing next semester. I'm so excited!!

**Andrew:** I don't know what I would do without you. Seriously. Thanks for a great semester of officer-ing and cost-ing. If you think you see me too much now..just wait till recruiting season starts..<3

**Directors:** The school year is half-way over. I bet you never thought it was going to fly by so quickly. I want to thank each and every single one of you for a great semester of hard work, dedication, and fun! The officers and I appreciate your initiative and hope you've learned something from being a leader in ABSA this semester. I'm looking forward to an amazing semester in 2009! No more brown bags!

### JigSaw FAMILY!

**Sarah YU:** Best co-bigsib, roomie, friend, ex-officer-person that I could have!! Lol :). Don't stress yourself out with ACC, SG, work, and other stuff! Just shop online all day long ;).

**Alex Ling:** Thanks for letting us cook at your apartment! It's so nice..we should have more family events there. And you can play piano for us <3 you!

**Amanda Sheu:** Little sib! I miss you! Come out to more family stuff :)

**Anna Huynh:** You're a rockstar little sib!

**Annie Li:** You're such a hardworker..I hope you do well on your exams!

**Bob Yu:** You only have 1 semester left..\*sniffle. ABSA TOP MODEL IS COMING UP SOON!!

**Charing:** I hope you recovered from your surgery quickly! Our family misses you :(

**Chris Kim:** Will I see you more next semester? :)

**Cindy Lin:** Little sib in real life! Lol. Thanks for coming out to ALL our family stuff. And thanks for everything else. I don't really have to say much about that one, lol. Hopefully we can figure out that Japan thing.

**Cujean Lee:** You're going to be active next semester, right?!

**Grace Kim:** Good job with case comp! Congrats :)

**Grace Ko:** I love that you're so active in ABSA! Our family is better than Lucy's :P. Hope you do well in your classes!

**Hugh Kim:** Softball season is coming up in the Spring..are you going to play for ABSA?!

**Raymond Tran:** Kirby + Meta Knight (is that what he's called..?) FTW!! We're an amazing team, hands down. MarioKart on the other hand..I'm not so good at that lol.

**Reagan Nguyen:** Hopefully you have more time next semester to spend time with our family :)

**Sara Chang:** You and Grace come in a package, it's cute! Did you make a t-shirt yet...?

**So-Min:** Little sib! I haven't seen you in awhile. Come out next semester?

**Suzi Zhao:** I still have your shirt! Actually I think Sara may have it now, but anyway. Come out to the next family event!

**Tracey Hwang:** Hope you're enjoying being a director in ABSA! You and Cindy come in a package, too! (Sorta). See you next semester; good luck with your finals!



# Jocelyn Lee

**Alice Fang:** Social Week 2009!  
**Andy Wong:** I liked your hat from Mr. McCombs. Nice acting in the promo video, lol!  
**Angela Douangkesone:** Great job with FYM and SC!

**Angela Eng:** Congrats on case comp!  
**Angela Huang:** You take amazing pictures! I'm really looking forward to the EOS video; I know it's going to be amazing!  
**Bobby Tran:** Can't believe you got a bike! Very impressive :)  
**Brandon Chang:** We're going to see each other a lot next semester for recruiting..  
**Brian Li:** Great job with FYM! The posters are really cute :). Congrats on case comp, too!!  
**Charles Lai:** I think you left something in my car. It may also be Eric's.  
**Courtney Chen:** Nice acting in the promo video and EOS intro video.  
**Crystal Cooper:** I can't wait until basketball season starts so I can watch you play! I love ABSA basketball :)  
**Deborah:** Here's the first shoutout that I owe you!!!! See I remembered!  
**Deborah:** I'm really sorry I missed you the first time around! Anyway, we're going to be seeing a LOT of each other next semester for recruiting. Stay cute and beautiful over winter break :)  
**Dchen:** You are a creative genius. What would we do without you? Have to pay for your services?! Pshhhh.. :P  
**Derrick Shich:** Hope your ankle gets better fully so I can still watch you play sports!  
**Ellena Park:** Find us a cute, but inexpensive apartment!!! :D  
**Eric Tsang:** I think you left something in my car. It may also be Charles's.  
**Frank Lin:** Thanks for being there. Sorry I missed you in the first shoutout. I didn't mean to!  
**Geronimo:** You better be there at the broomball rematch if we have one!  
**Grace Chen:** For some reason you always end up grading the hard questions on the cost exams, lol.  
**Grace Kim:** Congrats on case comp! I'm so proud of your team!  
**Hans:** Still haven't really seen your bike..  
**Henry Shi:** You do a scary Andrew-smile-impression.  
**Hue Dang:** YOU are amazing at catching on to those little details. How do you do it?! CAMPING?! Goodness..  
**I-Han:** Aww I see all your pictures of you having fun now that you have more time. Yay! No more stressed I-han. But seriously..stop recruiting because I don't see you anymore.  
**Jaе Lee:** You are doing such an amazing job with the video-editing. The promo video was FANTASTIC, and I can't wait to

see the EOS video. Thanks so much for your hard work.  
**Jan:** Omg were you talking to the salt shaker?! Lol...  
**Jeffrey Pao:** I owe you an accompaniment (sp?) to lunch!  
**Jeremy Fang:** You're FANGTASTIC!  
**Joanna Chou:** Intense pink-purplish diamond ring!!!! <3  
**Julian:** IPO'd. Finally. Have a wonderful winter break, Mr. McCombs 2007! :)  
**Justin Liao:** Wow..did I ever give you back your socks?! I may have lost them..I will buy you 3 new pairs of socks.  
**Justin Santos:** Justin Justin The Santos! Lol..good times :)  
**Ken Nguyen:** You always comment on my status changes :)  
**Lee Wang:** I don't know how you can do that announcer voice thing...it's entertaining lol.  
**Linda Nguyen:** Have fun next semester in Europe!  
**Lucy Lu:** Yay case comp volunteer! You, Sarah, and Grace are ALWAYS together!  
**Marie De los Santos:** I heard Bobby helped convince you to stay another semester. Yay!!  
**Michael Liu:** You're such a soldier on the broomball rink!  
**Michael Yang:** Thanks for all your advice about stuff. I must have been annoying having all those questions. Presidential joke 101 guys :)  
**Molly:** Thanks for all your hard work with ABSA & UCC. UCC's going to be different this year... lol.  
**Narin:** Your gangster poses in the Consulting Team pictures are hilarious  
**Peter Nguyen:** You were AMAZING at Mr. McCombs!! <3  
**Randy Santa Ana:** Are you done recruiting yet?!  
**Robert Huynh:** I like your phone! I don't know if I should get one or not..  
**Thu Doan:** Thanks for always helping out Khanh with food :P  
**TheKevin:** Thanks for feeding me. You're a good host, lol  
**Tiffany Kuo:** You are amazing for being the #1 violist in the state of Texas. That is...ridiculous. That means you have perfect pitch and are basically a musical genius. I'm jealous!  
**Tim Tran:** You always wear the same hat and sweatshirt, haha..why is that?  
**Tony Tran:** You're done recruiting now right?! It's hard to go from seeing you almost every day over the summer to just.. once every other week or so. Come back to ABSA!  
**Tu Pham:** If we have a broomball rematch, you better be there!  
**Van:** I don't really have to thank you here for everything that you do, do I? I know you're going to miss me over the Winter Break. I'll only be gone for a month and you can catch me online. I MAY miss you too, a little.  
**ABSA:** Have a wonderful and safe winter break! Stay warm and good luck with any finals you may have. See you in January :)

**Officers:** Officer Love <33333333 x 500000000  
**Internal Branch:** You all are so amazing and make me so proud! Have a great break and we're gonna make Spring semester AWESOME! <3  
**SUPERinB.E.D Family:** Happy Holidays little sibs! You are all the bestest!  
**Jasmin & Lydia:** Great job on the informers!!  
**Alice Fang:** I'm so happy to have you in my life. You are an amazing friend, director, and roommate!

**Anna Huynh:** Asians with Hispanic influence ftw! There's something special about that combination because everyone who is = awesome!  
**Andy Wong:** "Big Daddy" hmm?  
**Andrew Yoon:** You smell like Yoni and PBJ is secure with who he is so back up!

# Erica Chung

# Erica Chung

**Angela Eng:** Hey cutie!

**Bobby Tran:** Hi Bobby! Good luck with recruiting!

**Candice Shim:** You are a super star! You know how to rock that mic!

**Charing Hung:** Hi hot stuff ;]

**Charles Lai:** "This is a jokkkkeeee" hahahahaha

**Christina Ma:** Miss you!

**Courtney Chen:** You make the cutest cupcakes!

**Crystal Cooper:** \*Licks lips\* girl, you gotta dance with me. This song? What about now?

**David Ha:** Do lie shreem? After this semester, I will definitely miss you dshreem!

**Dustin Le:** You are a meanie and I will keep cutting you off :]

**Eddy Fong:** \*sigh\* I miss CS, SC, and doing case comp!!

Eric Tsang: Nice brownie bites! Hahaha!

**Felicia Tsao:** Hi lovely! We still need to go on our hot date, and we don't have utabsa.org as our third wheel anymore!

**Frank Lin:** mmm fried mushrooms! Yay to Pluckers' member cards!

**Grace Kim:** You have a pretty singing voice! You should consider doing VSA date auction next year or Miss UT Asia!

**Hans Malzar:** Hey cool guy, let's go karaoke again or watch another movie sometime!

**Henry Shi:** Hi little sib!

**Hoa Nguyen:** missed ya at Project Reachout!

**I-han Huang:** Thanks for always being a morale booster!

**Imran Jivani:** Finance sucks...

**Jan Ma:** <333

**Jae Lee:** I can't wait to see the EOS video!

**Jeffrey Pao:** Teach me how to bowl! :]

**Jeremy Fang:** Financial Fang has a pretty good ring to it.

**Jin Guo:** I just quit Victoria's Secret... maybe now I'll have more money!

**Joanna Chou:** Keep up the great work in Executive and with mentorship program!

**John Terada:** You are an AWESOME Academic VP, I can't wait

for the events in the Spring!

**Justin Liao:** You're so smart!

**Khanh Vu:** I like your stencil idea! It's super cute!

**Lee Wang:** You are my personal GPS! Love it!

**Linda Nguyen:** Di ang ca rem hom? <D Have fun studying abroad, I'll MISS YOU!!!!

**Lusi Xiao:** We'll have matching husbands and children. I call Mike He!

**Michael Yang:** \*creepy voice\* I got the whole world... in my hands... \*shivers\*

**Molly Sun:** Backwards music notes! Aww, Molly you are so cute! We're gonna make sure everyone knows how cute you are by putting it on your Senior Farewell in 2 years. <3

**Patrick Lu:** Now that the semester is over and you don't have photography on TH at 6, I'll see you at GMs!

**Randy Santa Ana:** I'm not going to be a PCM next semester :[

**Robert Huynh:** Welcome to our Family, now you can be SuperinB.E.D!

**Sally Huynh:** Alumni Weekend was really fun!

**Sally Zheng:** All I want for Christmas is you! <3

**Sarah Lee:** You should play in showdown!

**Sarah Yu:** Your family t-shirts are so cute! And you make amazing food. Please teach me :]

**Sandy Duong:** I'm really enjoying all the volunteering events so far, they are really fun!

**Shara Kim Ma:** Chompers is super cute! I love all his tricks!

**Taeyoung Kim:** We still need to go shopping!

**Thanh Nguyen:** Two girls with no sense of direction trying to get home = HAAAAHA. It's ok, we still found our way back!!

**Thu Doan:** Yay we have the same mentor!

**Tim Lee:** Patient, tolerant, and understand – wow what a great guy! :]

**Tiffany Wang:** OREOS!!! ... With milk!! While smiling!!

**Tovey Xu:** Two words... time bandit.

**Wendy Lin:** Let's go to karaoke again!

**Yao Lin:** Good luck with recruiting!

**Jocelyn Lee:** Miss President :)

**Tiffany Wang:** I call you Tiffs Wang now!

**Tim Lee:** Jay Chou fanatic...

**Erica Chung:** Pft I have nothing to shoutout to you, you live across from me.

**Felicia Tsao:** #\$(#@#\$(!! \*&#^!!!!

**Andrew Yoon:** Your moon makes babies cry at night.

**John Terada:** My first Japanese friend, yet you don't watch anime!!!! :(

**Charles Lai:** Everyone is useless! JUST USELESS!

**Lulu Han:** LOO LOO

**Michael Yang:** Your dancing is a joke :D haha jk jk jk!

**Brandon Chang:** \*HUGGLES\*

**Andy Wong:** how do you find gloves that fit you?

**Justin Liao:** good job on Athletics!

**Crystal Cooper:** let's go to 6th again... but let's make sure one person stays lucid this time.

**Jan Ma:** what's our next family game? :)

**Sally Zheng:** my secret lover as well... :)

**Courtney Chen:** my favorite Internal director whose name

ends with an N! best cupcakes ever!

**Lusi Xiao:** my favorite Internal director whose name starts with an L! we have maxed out on our baking xp points.

**Lee Wang:** 2 words: announcer voice

**Angela Eng:** stay off 6th!!! :) jk

**Eric Tsang:** Asian man with a truck

**Robert Huynh:** best baked goods salesman ever!

**Hue Dang:** yay MOTM!!!

**Deborah Dou:** your mini cupcakes beat mine :(

**Thu Doan:** yay bake sale! Thanks for your help!

**Henry Shi:** stop singing everywhere! Because everytime you begin a note, somehow Lee appears and backs you up...

**Jeremy Fang:** Lil' Fang!

**Jeffrey Pao:** ka-PAO!!!

**Frank Yang:** you don't come to anything so I know you won't see this anyways :)

# Alice Fang

# Alice Fang

**Julian Maldonado:** how come you are the joke of the week? Hahahaha  
**Nick Wen:** you're my #1 bf  
**Tovey Xu:** you're my #1 bf too  
**Yao Lin:** we're old.

**Will Tran:** where did you run off to??  
**Kathy Kang:** you're not even in ABSA yet people are writing you shoutouts :)  
**Eddy Fong:** I guess you were right, you DID win case comp. Those freshman have nothing on you hahaha

**Lydia Byun** – Hey Lydia, it was really great meeting you this year! I'll never forget the Haunted House and IHOP afterwards. :)

**Floria Chan-** Hey there FLO-RIDA! I hope we're on the same team for Showdown this year. And hopefully you'll use that name on the back of your shirt. :P

**Brandon Chang-** Hey Brandon! Thanks for Juicebox! It was a great treat after watching Texas win that day against OU. =] And you DO look like your dad. =P

**Nathan Chang-** Hey Baby Nathan! Thanks so much for staying up with me that one night in the Reliant. Even though we watched some Simpsons and random videos online, I did get my studying done as well.

**Courtney Chen-** Hey there fellow internal director! "How 'bout you NOT bake" ;P

**David Chen-** CHIPOTLE-CHIPOTLE-CHIPOTLE... ,

**Grace Chen-** Hey Grace! You're like an unofficial ex-Big Sib to me, and I hope that your new littles are fun this year!

**Jessica Chen-** Hey Jessica! I hope your first semester here at UT was enjoyable. I'm really glad I was the one to take you and the others to the Haunted House that night. Fun times =]

**Matthew Chen-** Hey Matt, Mattie, Matthew! Thanks for watching the past episodes of The Office with me! You caught me up!!! =D

**Jennifer Chen-** Hey Jenn! I barely get to see you but I'm glad that I do whenever you're not so busy with CSA. (B.E.S.T. Friends for life!) Haha get it? =P

**Nathan Chiang-** Hey Nate! Thanks for being an honest guy who tells it like it is. I'm really glad that we're friends and I hope you stay another semester next year OR SOMETHING... .DON'T LEAVE YET!!! =)

**Joanna Chou-** Hey Joanna! Hope you're enjoying UT and all! Glad we got to fit in some chit-chat at the ABSA case comp this year. I'll never forget your double back cracking thing. (shutters) =P

**Erica Chung-** Hey Internal VP of mine! Thanks for all your help so far this year. <3

**Crystal Cooper-** Hey COURTNEY!!! ;P jk. Yyou CRYSTAL!!!

**Hue Dang-** Hey Hue! W.M.D. Marketing ROCKS! =P

**Sandy Duong-** Hey Sandy! Hope your year is going great. Especially with that huge book you have to read for English... blahh =P

**Angela Eng-** HEY CUPCAKE! =) Congratulations on winning 2nd in case comp this year. You're so well-spoken!!! (=

**Alice Fang-** Hey fellow internal director! Thanks for letting the rest of internal come over to yalls apartment a lot of the time

**Marie DLS:** bootylicious Mr. McCombs escort!

**David Ha:** Poker... I am getting better and now I am coming after your money!!

**Bob Yu:** I know you won't see this shoutout either :)

**Angela Huang:** did you know you look like my friend Julia Zhang? Look her up on facebook

**Charing Hung:** Thanks for letting me use your iron :) I'm sorry the box got messed up!!

**Grace Chen:** you are an cupcake decorating mastermind

**Natasha Tosirisuk:** Cougar extraordinaire!

for events and whatnot. I hope you have a great year!!! =)

**Jeremy Fang-** JERMS JERMS JERMS... that's all.

**Eddy Fong-** Hey Eddy! I'm so glad that we got the chance to get to know each other better this year. I always that you were this super busy excel genius who was always on the run... oh wait you are... =P but I am really glad that we got to talk and look at random cool shirts online in the mil lab. =P

**Jin Guo-** JIN JIN! =) I wish I was in Half&Half... your family looks like so much fun! Haha

**David Ha-** DAVID! I can't believe this is your last semester!!! =] But, I'm so glad that we're friends! Freshmen year was awesome because I got to experience TEXAS REVUE with you and the other guys. That's just one of the BEST memories that I can think of that we both shared last year. I'll miss you. :)

**Lulu Han-** LU LU skip to my LU! =] I'm so glad that we hung out this year. Too bad it was only a couple of times... but we still have next semester! =P

**Sharon Hsu-** Hey Sharon!! Too bad we don't have class with each other this year... I barely get to see you :( Hope all is well though!!!

**Angela Huang-** Hey Angela! You have the prettiest eyes :) hope I didn't sound too creepy by telling you that... but I'm sure you've heard that before. Anyways, hope your first semester went well!

**I-Han Huang-** Hey I-han! Ms.Trendy!!! :)

**Charing Hung-** Hey Charing! I know we don't talk much, but I am glad that we're friends. If you do ever have any free time, let's grab a bite to eat and talk =P

**Robert Huynh-** Hey Robert!!! It's always cool when I run into you at the mil lab. Hope your first semester was great. :) oh-yeah, congrats on winning case comp!!! You did so well!

**Khang Huynh-** Hey NG (nice guy)!

**Sally Huynh-** Hi Sally! Thanks for offering to help me with being Family Director this year. And I hope I'm doing a good job so far! =]

**Tracey Hwang-** Hey Tracey! Hope your first semester at UT went well. Let's get together sometime next year and grab a bite to eat. =]

**Fenny Jie-** Hey Fenny! I'm glad I got to see you at least a few times this past semester!!! You're such a busy woman. :)

**HyoShin Kim-** Hey HyoShin! I'm really glad to have met you this year. Too bad we didn't do too well in volleyball... but we had fun!

# Jan Ma

# Jan Ma

**Tiffany Kuo**- Hey Tiffany! I hope you enjoyed your first semester here at UT! Your family's song about ABSA was really good. You and the rest of the girls are super creative! =]

**Anthony Kwan**- Hey Anthony! Nice job on winning the Fruit by the Foot challenge. Your technique was pretty cool =P

**Charles Lai**- Hey Charles... every time I heard or think about your name, the song "Charles in Charge" always pops in my mind. =P

**Andrea Lau**- Hi Missy! Even though I've seen you only about 3 times this past semester, it was always nice to run into you. :)

**Huiping Law**- Hey Huiping! I hope that you're doing well. :) I hardly get to see you around anymore.

**Julie Le**- Hey Julie! It was really nice meeting you this year. =]

**Dustin Le**- Hey Dustin! Good job on eating 6 hot dogs in 5 minutes... better than me! =P

**Jocelyn Lee**- Hey Ms. President! =P

**Tim Lee**- Hi Tim! (wobbles head) :)

**Justin Liao**- Hey Justin! (fellow internal director) Keep up the good work with the IM teams! Can't wait for bball to start next semester!

**Yao Lin**- Hey Yao! It's always nice running into you in the mil lab =P

**Wendy Lin**- Hi Wendy! Congratulations on winning the GM Case Comp! You guys rocked it! =]

**Michael Liu**- Hey Michael! I hope your senior year is going well. =]

**Patrick Lu**- Hey Patrick! Keep taking those amazing photos! They're always nice to look at =]

**Michelle Ly**- Hi Michelle!! I'm glad we got to go to a UT football game together! That day was really fun =)

**Christina Ma** :): :) just wanted to let you know... I <3you! =P

**Shara Ma** :): :) :) \_\_anks\_or\_eing\_a\_reat\_\_ster! YYYYY

**Yuning Ma**- Yuning!!! Where have you been? :(

**Julian Maldonado**- I don't care what anyone says... you are still MR.MCCOMBS. :-P

**Hans Malzar**- Hey Hans! =]

**Danny Mao**- Hi Danny! =\ no more nblox. Anyways, I hope you're doing well =]

**Patricia Mar**- Hey Patricia! You're like one of the first freshmen friends I met this year! =P Hope your first semester went well.

**David Mortazavi**- Hi David! =P

**Monica Nguyen**- Hey Monica! You're an awesome External VP! The hot dog eating contest was a pretty fun experience =]

**Nancy Nguyen**- Where have you been?!

**Peter Nguyen**- Congrats on getting first runner-up in the Mr.Mccombs Pageant! "I'm a longhorn baby!"

**Thanh Nguyen**- Hi Thanh! =]

**Linda Nguyen**- Hey Linda, hope all is well... especially with

your new mac! =]

**Reagan Nguyen**- Hi Reagan!

**Kristine Padua**- FSA or ABSA? Or both? =P

**Jeffery Pao**- Hey Jeff! I'm glad we finally officially met this year. I can't wait until IM Basketball!!! =P

**Kim Phung**- JELLLLLLLLLLLLLLLO! You're awesome =]

**Stephanie Qin**- Hey Stephanie! Next time, you have to compete in the food eating contest too!!!

**Randy Santa Ana**- Hey Randy! =P

**Marie DLS**- Hi Marie! I hope your semester was enjoyable! =]

**Justin Santos**- sighs... life is so unpredictable. =P

**Narin Sead**- Congrats on Case Comp Narin! =]

**Henry Shi**- Congrats on Case Comp Henry! [=

**Derrick Shich**- Hi Derrick! I hope your semester went well. :)]

**Marya Sokha**- Hey Marya!

**Molly Sun**- Molly SUN, like the SUN in the sky! You're so cute Molly! :)

**Jasmin Sun**- Hey Jasmin! DPs for life =P

**Justin Tam**- Hi Justin!

**Emily Tao**- EMILYYYY! <3 you ex-bigsib :)

**John Terada**- OBAMANOS!

**Natasha Tosirisuk**- one word: Trudy's =P

**Tony Tran**- HI BLOATY! =D

**Bobby Tran**- Please say hi to ChaSeu for me.

**Raymond Tran**- Hello Raymond =P

**Timothy Tran**- Hey Timberly!

**William Tsai**- Hi Will! =]

**Felicia Tsao**- Hey Felicia! [=

**Khanh Vu**- Hey Khanh! Great job on introducing the speakers at the GMs. You make a really great professional director! =]

**Jonathan Wang**- W.M.D. Marketing... haha our team was a fun team. Let me steal your music :)

**Lee Wang**- Congrats on Case Comp Lee! =]

**Tiffany Wang**- Oh Tiffany's Wang... I<3u!

**Tony Wang**- Hi Tony! [=

**Andrew Wong**- W.M.D. Marketing!!! Case Comp was fun... haha. It wasn't as hard as I expected it to be (THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID!!!) hehehe

**Nicholas Wren**- Hi Nick! How's mocha??

**Lusi Xiao**- Hi fellow internal director! =) Thanks so much for all your help Lusi!

**Wenting Xie**- Hi Wenting! Benny is soooo cute =] I can tell he takes after you!

**Beini Xu**- Hi Beini! I hope your semester was enjoyable! =]

**Tovey Xu**- Hey Tovey! Do you think I can play poker with y'all one day? [=

**Andrew Yoon**- despite what you think... we're still JANDREW! :) Thanks for being a great friend to me Andrew!

**Bob Yu**- Hey Bob! Thanks for the free highlighter/post-it tags pen you gave me! Haha it's soo cool!

**Sally Zheng**- BUNNY! =P

# Lusi Xiao

**Alice Fang:** Yay Bake Sale!! +1000 baking experience points for us!! ^^

**Andy Wong:** Mr. Daddy Longfingers... and long toes O.o

**Andrew Yoon:** LOL. You and your

crappy stories. Literally

**Angela Eng:** Hey Cupcake!

**Angela Huang:** Hey Angela! You're so sweet!

**Bob Yu:** Bob!! You're still the same after all these years :]

**Bobby Tran:** Hey Big-sib! Hang out with us more!

**Brian Li:** Hola Brian

**Candice Shim:** You're so cute when you sing in Korean!!

**Charles Lai:** You're the my straightest guy friend

**Cindy Lin:** Hey Cindy!!

**Courtney Chen:** Yay Bake Sale!!! ...is over

**Crystal Cooper:** Good job in sports!

**Dan Quach:** Two words: Hot Car

**David Ha:** Hey Big-sib!! Come out more!!

**Dustin Le:** Putting up banner at Mathews Elem. = failure

**Eddy Fong:** When are we gonna go eat?

**Erica Chung:** Ewica!!!! You're the nicest, sweetest, loveliest Big-sib/Internal Officer ever!!!!

**Felicia Tsao:** Hey girl! I love your witty humor!

**Geronimo:** Geronimooooo! I just like saying your name xD

**Grace Kim:** Ahhh.. We need to hang out more! :]

**Grace Ko:** Grace!! You're so cute. See you in BA 101H!

**Hans Malzar:** I always write your nametag. Muahahaha

**Henry Shi:** Over, sideways, and under....on a magic carpet ride!

**Hue Dang:** I swear it's pronounced hue. like a color

**Jacklyn Dang:** You're so cute and athletic! I'm jealous xP

**Jaе Lee:** Teach me more Korean!!! xD

**Jan Ma:** Hey Jan! Good job on all your events!!

**Joanna Chou:** It was nice talking to you for brown-bag xD

**Jocelyn Lee:** Hey Jocelyn!! Great job on ABSA!!

**John Terada:** I challenge you to a light reflecting/ ninja skills war!!!

**Justin Liao:** Good job in sports

**Jasmin & Lydia:** Thanks for doing the Informer!!

**Lee Wang:** Do not say "Scorpion Girl"

**Lucy Lu:** Hey Lucy!!

**Lulu Han:** Lulu! You're so cute and sweet!

**Michael Yang:** Rawr! Don't poke me!!!

**Monica Nguyen:** Great job on external!

**Molly Sun:** It was really nice getting to know you! We should hang out again!

**Nick Wen:** tsk tsk. I network more than you... and I'm a free man.

**Patrick Lu:** Hey math hw buddy!!

**Robert Huynh:** Robert!!! I never see you with Daniel anymore

**Sally Zheng:** Hey Sally! I'm so glad you're my big sib!!! :]

**Sandy Duong:** Sandy! Great job on all those volunteer events!!

**Thu Doan:** Hey Thu! Thanks for picking up those Polkadots cupcakes!!

**Tim Lee:** I always see you at the Atrium! Great job on Professional stuff!

**Tiffany Wang:** Hey Tiffany! You're really sweet! Great job on Executive stuff!

**Tovey Xu:** Thanks for all those rides back at 1am xD

**Molly Sun:** Hi Molly

**Wonjoo Kim and Molly Sun (aka Spec E. Directors):** Get ready for a kickbutt CFT!

**Khanh Vu and Lee Wang (aka Prof Directors):** Hopefully, there will be no clutch performances required next semester!

**Scoring Careers Committee:** Beat HBSA. Just Kidding, we aren't competing!

**Officers:** Halfway already?!

**FYTT Club:** We cool

**Lydia Byun and Jasmin Sun:** Keep up the good work!

**Dchao:** You need to actually read this and come out more.

**Courtney Chen:** Good acting!

**Grace Chen:** Last semester coming up =O

**Jessica Chen:** Thanks for tabling with us!

**Crystal Cooper:** The only time I ever exercise now is at Fitness Fridays haha

**Hue Dang:** MOTM you are awesome

**Thu Doan:** I don't ignore you!

**Angela Duoangkesone:** Good job on the PR for Scoring Careers!

**Sandy Duong:** Help in ACC please

**Angela Eng:** Hi

**Alice Fang:** Hi too!

**Jeremy Fang:** Always riding in Camrys haha

**Eddy Fong:** Congrats on Case Comp!

**Jin Guo:** Where did Lawrence go??

**Lulu Han:** Managements almost over! No more being late

**Sharon Hsu:** Great job staying on top of things

**Charing Hung:** Get well soon!

**Ihan Huang:** Where did you go?

**Robert Huynh:** Congrats on Case Comp too!

**Grace Kim:** Golden ticket to success haha

**Grace Ko:** Thanks for coming out to CFT!

**Jackie Kuo:** Keep studying hard

**Charles Lai:** Blahblahblahblah

**Brian Li:** Congrats on Case Comp three!

**Wendy Lin:** Congrats on Case Comp four!

**Ann Loo:** oops I misspelled your last name =)

**Hans Malzar:** Where've you been lately?

**StephieQ:** B&N girl

**Henry Shi:** I like that you're active

**Jon Wang:** John Wayne?! Huh?

**Andrew Wong:** Good acting too!

**Lusi Xiao:** xiao lusi = little lusi

**Beini Xu:** Olympic ice skater right here.

**Tovey Xu:** That dirty rice was goodood

# Tim Lee

# Tiffany Wang

**Jocelyn:** <3 Friends, plaid & wheat thins! See you in the atrium :)

**Felicia:** >:[ < since I know it makes you happy, lol

**Erica:** pink hoodies, pandas,

pigs, Honda civics, "Oreos," pedicures, shopping, ice cream, random run-intos in Houston = <3 for Erica!

**Andrew:** Don't worry Financial Yoon, we'll hang out soon! <3

**John:** Thumbs down for ACC311! Thumbs up for living in Jester!

**Monica:** SE Houston! We represent ¼ of the officer panel!

**Tim Lee:** From fig-mates to fellow officers! When will you ever get rid of me?

**Lulu:** Baking & Scary movies! We need to get on it, pronto!

**Tim:** I still can't believe you don't have a laptop!

**Van:** There are so many inside jokes, I can't even list them all here. Thanks for always being such a good sport when we poke fun at you!

**Joanna:** Yay for pretty jeans and threaded eyebrows!

**Menajatwang:** We're going for #1 this year! You guys are the best little sibs everrr :)

**Michael & Justin:** You fatties :) I couldn't ask for cooler co-big sibs or directors!

**Julian:** Our token Hispanic guy + Mr. McCombs! What would we do without you, uncle?

**Frank:** You're un-cool, kinda secretive, and you send me a lot of youtube links, but who else would be there to tell me to "quit cryin"?: :)

**Patrick:** We should eat together more often especially since I always run into you randomly! You're always welcome to hang out with Linda and I :)

**Justin Liao:** Yay! I'm glad I recruited you into our family! You're a good study buddy even though you make fun of me for doing practice problems! P.S.- those were NOT self portraits :P

**Julia:** You should come hang out with our family even if we're not eating!

**Angela:** You're an amazing cook! Help us win Iron Chef next semester! :)

**Hue:** How did you survive the past 18 years with Van? Kidding! :) Thanks for being such an active little sib <3

**Yuning & Will:** Save some time for us. We miss you!

**G-mo:** Even though you're bad at keeping surprises, you're still a pretty cool guy! Haha jk. Let's study accounting together!

**Kevin:** Twizzle! Unofficial family member :) Come out to more of our family events, please!

**Louis:** Thanks for the cupcakes that one night. They were delicious! :)

**Bryant:** Why don't I see you around anymore? :(

**MCLiu & Audrey:** Thanks for always inviting me to come over and watch TV with you guys :) I'll try and take up on your offer more often next semester.

**Henry & Jeremy:** Little Andrews in the making! You guys are doing a great job!

**Jan Ma:** Pretty lady :) We can celebrate our birthdays together next year!

**Lee, Justin & Tony:** Wang's unite!

**Eddy:** Mil lab buddy :)

**David Ha:** Ha^3!

**Ben Lee:** When are we going to have midnight adventure part 2? :P

**Brian Li:** Stats is over!

**Deborah:** You're always so cute! Let's go to F21 together!

**Jeffrey Pao:** Hey! You're pretty spiffy. Teach me to bowl, please? :)

**Grace Kim:** I love your enthusiasm!

**Hyoshin:** Hi! You're cool!

**Bob Yu:** Bob. You're rad! :) Thanks for all your photoshop help!

**David Chen:** Hey "thug" :)

**Nathan (baby):** Da Hei Ma Ma :) I miss seeing you around! Room 312 reunion soon?

**Nathan Chiang:** Big man, Nate. I'll send all the old members who complain to you :)

**Linda (Penguyen):** I need to drop by the Mil Lab to say "Hi!" more often. Have a wonderful time in Italy. Think of me!

**Hans:** I still have that keychain you gave me for my birthday! :) Thanks!

**Sarah Yu:** I'll try to spam your inbox a bit less... but no promises! Thanks for all of your help! You are amazing! <3

**Alice Fang-** Fellow Internal director, you're leaving me! I know you'll rock at being Social director.

**Andrew Yoon-** OPPA! Jk. Thanks for being so friendly and always driving me around. Don't worry, I will never stop baking brownies for you.

**Andy Wong-**Daddy long fingers, don't get stuck in too many doorways with those unproportional shoulders of yours. Also, I won't forget the -3 incident, but I do forgive! :)

**Angela Huang-** Miss Media Director, you should wear protective gear on the side of the field, so you don't get hurt when people tackle you. Thanks for being a good entourage haha :P

**Cindy Lin-** Thanks for being our chauffeur that day and taking me to get my hair cut! We will fix this open-mouth picture habit of yours. :P

**Crystal Cooper-** Gimme an A! A, you got your A, you got your A! (you break it down)

**David Chen-** You beat me up too much. But thanks for all the

rides you gave me to football and practicing with me for volleyball!

**Derrick Shich-** Make more egg/tomato stuff! It was delicious! Thanks, big.

**Dustin Le-** The music stand incident at Project Reachout never happened.

**Erica Chung-** YAY INTERNAL. Haha our branch is superior! Thanks for the rides and simultaneous girl talks.

**Felicia Tsao-** Together, we can have complete control over Andrew! :)

**Grace Kim-** Those pick-up lines you used on me that one time were smooooth. You could totally be a better boy than Andrew.

# Courtney Chen

# Courtney Chen

**Henry Shi**- Hey, San Jac buddy! Hopefully, there won't be too much bickering in the future.

**Jan Ma**- Miss Family Director! You're doing an awesome

job. Keep it up! And by the way, can you not bake cupcakes?!

**Joanna Chou**- roooooomieee love <3 that's all I need to say.

**Jocelyn Lee**- Leave the Atrium. Explore the world! :) )

**John Terada**- I totally beat you at trash-picking at KAB :P

**Jon Wang**- Je veux prendre la classe de française avec toi!

Mais, tu es plus avancé que moi. :(

**Julian Maldonado**- Mr. McCombs forever!

**Justin Liao**- Man up! Put people in their places. You know what I'm talking about! :P

**Justin Santos**- Thanks for showing me those integral/derivative solving sites. Made my Calculus homework much easier for me! :) )

**Justin Wang**- 30% girl, huh? And I helped you with your injury! Ungrateful.

**Khang Huynh**- I'll stop spamming you, when you stop spamming me back. Deal? **Lee Wang**- Thanks for keeping me company at shack-a-thon. You're a trooper!

**Lusi Xiao**- internal directors rock.

**Manuel Geronimo Jr.**- thanks for keeping me company in the reliant :) )

**Marie De Los Santos**- Auntie Marie. I'll miss the most awesome family aunt ever next year :(

**Max Ma**- oh Maxwell. You're such a skilled rapper.

**Michael Yang**- I will repay you for that unnecessary tackle. Just you wait and see.

**Nathan Chen**- COUSIN. People don't believe we're cousins. I know, I'm shocked too.

**Nathan Chiang**- Thanks for standing there and laughing your head off when I got owned in the face with the tetherball... twice.

**Nick Wen**- Big sib! I know everyone says this, but Mocha! So cute :) )

**Patricia Mar**- hey girl! I'm still amazed by how much you eat and how skinny you stay

**Sharon Hsu**- Sorry I killed you! The chase definitely made assassins more interesting :) )

**Tiffany Kuo**- I don't even know what to call you anymore. You officially have way too many nicknames. Thanks for listening to my occasional rants and having my back! <3

**Tim Lee**- I know you deny this, but I still believe I see you every time I'm in the Reliant. You're such a studious person! :) )

**Tovey Xu**- Stop trying to steal our birthday treats!

**Tracey Hwang**- Dang, girl! Eat faster!

**Van Dang**- please stop eating. Jk! :P

**Will Tran**- Thank you for all the lunches! It's fun to see how many times I bump into you at Tap House :P

**Tiffany Wang**: Cause you and I both loved what you and I spoke of

**Joe Bao**: I miss you dawg. <-- Trying to be like Khang from last issue

**Khang Huynh**: Writing shoutouts to just 2 people is lame

**Grace Kim**: Look at what i said to Khang.

**Julian Maldonado**: Where do I get in line?

**Emily Tao**: Seriously though... informer editors next year?

**Van Dang**: 2 legit 2 quit

**Julie Le**: This is the last

informer you'll ever get as a member so here is a shoutout to you. I hope you have a great life! :) )

# Frank Lin

# Monica Nguyen

**Reagan Nguyen** – Thank you for always being there and sharing your advice with me. If you ever need anything, let me know. We should go to the gym more often, too. =)

**Sarah Yu** – Thank you for being an awesome big sib and rapping our Mickey D order!

**Jocelyn Lee** – Thank you, too, for being an awesome big sib! And oh, the joys of MPA. I do enjoy all the time together, though.

**Tiffany Wang** – Thank you for working so hard all summer and through the school year. Can't wait for Mentorship Social!

**Tim Lee** – The ultimate scavenger hunter.

**Erica Chung** – You work so hard on the events, and smile through it all. Great job so far, girl!

**Felicia Tsao** – I love your jokes and humor. It makes life so much more enjoyable.

**John Terada** – Thank you for the chili covered mangos! Great job on the workshops!

**Andrew Yoon** – Good job getting us money so we can spend it. We like to spend.

**Jan Ma** – Don't Forget the Lyrics was so cool. Keep up the good work!

**Linda Nguyen** – My lovely, Linda. We need to have dinner before you go to Milan!

**Anna Huynh** – Happy birthday!

**Hugh Kim** – Thanks for driving us everywhere on scavenger hunt and getting people to take pictures with the family!

**Ellena Park** – Thanks for joining our family for scavenger hunt! You're great!

**James Yao** – Nice seeing you at ABSA events. And then around randomly at CoCo's with Rebecca lol!

**External Branch** – You all are awesome. Ya'll come up with great ideas and are fun to be around. Keep up the good work and have a great year!

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