The MBA Consulting Club (MCC) at the Robert H. Smith School of Business hosted a networking event titled “DC Consulting Day” at the Washington, DC campus on February 16, 2012. The focus of MCC is on careers in management consulting and strategic Management. The club focuses on providing a medium of interaction among students, alumni, recruiters, professionals and faculty to promote understanding of the industry beyond the classroom environment.

The DC Consulting Day focused on bringing Smith students and Alums who work at major consulting firms in the Washington DC Metropolitan area to help those interested in consulting careers have a better understanding of organizational culture, consulting lifestyle, and job opportunities. The event also gave the representatives of the consulting firms the opportunity to network with other consultants working for other consulting firms.

The event was well attended by over 80 people that included Smith part-time students, full-time students, Alums, and OSC staff members. There were over 20 Smith representatives of consulting firms; the companies represented included Accenture, Booz Allen Hamilton, Computer Science Corporation (CSC), Deloitte & Touché, Ernst & Young (EY), Grant Thornton, IBM, and PWC.

As the Vice President of MCC PT-MBA Students Relations and the lead officer for this event, it was very exciting to see that the event was a success with over 60% of participants representing the Part-Time MBA program across all three different campuses!
Life After Smith—Baltimore Campus Alumni Panel
By David Croushore, DC 2nd Year

On Friday evening, March 2nd, the Baltimore campus hosted the second installment of the PTMBAA’s “Life After Smith” alumni panel discussion series. Three alums returned to Smith to share their experience and insight with current students. Throughout the evening, several themes began to emerge as our alumni speakers reflected on their time at Smith and the paths their careers have taken in the years since they graduated.

Todd Garliss of Corbyn Investment Management likened careers to the game of golf: by focusing on the score you want to shoot, you are prone to making bad choices along the way, and may end up missing your target. However, when you focus on each shot, each step along the way, the end result will take care of itself.

Similarly, Sandra Brummitt of Constellation Energy discussed the importance of putting yourself out there and taking the time to build a professional network, while remaining open to possibilities that may seem outside the normal range of “what you do.” She shared stories about making time to talk with colleagues and how this outreach ultimately landed her in a new role, distinct from her previous experience.

Finally, Jeff Knabe of McCormick discussed his career transition from pre-MBA alternative rock band drummer to post-MBA brand manager. For career-changers, he stressed, the important thing is to focus on where you want to be, and identify all of the steps it will take to get there. Identify the skills you already have and the ones you still need to develop in order to transition into your new role, and learn to tell the story of where you started, how you got to where you are, and why your new career is the only right next step.

After the panel, students and the speakers gathered to network and share their own ideas with each other. As soon-to-be-graduates planned their next career step and all of us begin to wind down the year one step closer to our own graduation, the lessons of these alumni can help us plot our own paths to fulfilling and successful careers.
Join the Smith PTMBAA Board as a Committee Member!

Interested in becoming more involved and getting the most out of your MBA experience? If so, Join a PTMBAA Committee!

The PTMBAA is looking for volunteers for the following committees:

- Marketing
- Career Development
- Community Development
- Orientation
- Fall Ball

To Sign Up & Learn More – Send an email to the committee leads listed below.

**Marketing:**  Kristin Wagner: kristincwagner@gmail.com
**Career Development:**  Ron Martin: ronald.l.martin@gmail.com
**Community Development:**  Adrian Lee: adrianglee@gmail.com
**Orientation:**  Adrian Lee: adrianglee@gmail.com
**Fall Ball:**  David Croushore: david.croushore@gmail.com
PTMBAA Board—VP of Outreach Profiles

Vaibhav (VB) Thadakamalla, VP of DC Outreach

Campus/Expected to Graduate: Washington DC - 2014
Profession: Senior Consultant at ARPC Consulting

About me:
I was born in India but have spent over half my life in New Zealand having moved there when I was 10. To address the most burning questions you might have: Yes, we have more sheep than people. Yes, I love Lord of the Rings but surprisingly, can’t say the same about Flight of the Concord and Yes, if anyone wants to know more about rugby and cricket, I’d be ecstatic to have a chat with you. I moved to the US on a study abroad program 4 years ago to complete my final year at the University of Washington in Seattle; one of the most beautiful cities I’ve ever visited. I graduated with Bachelors degrees in Mechatronics (Control Systems) Engineering, Finance and Economics. In my spare time, I am an avid sports fan and enjoy playing soccer and squash while keeping up as a spectator with basketball, the NFL, rugby and cricket.

Career and the Smith School:
In terms of my career, I am a senior consultant at ARPC (www.arpc.com), a boutique firm that provides legal support in mass tort and product liability cases. My day to day work requires varying degrees of expertise in economics, finance, statistical analysis and programming. I applied to Smith because of the diverse range of courses available in the curriculum and the convenient centralized location of the DC Campus. Like most MBA students, I am looking to transition into a management position at the end of my studies. The great thing about the PTMBA program is that your education does not come at the cost of work experience and my hope is to leverage and apply my classroom knowledge as I progress through the degree to take that next step on my personal career ladder.

Building Relationships:
While I am here, I hope to improve my knowledge and learn as much as possible from my classes and, equally importantly, from my peers. Getting to know the DC Part Time MBA students is one the big reasons why I ran for my position on the board and I hope that over my time at Smith, I will have a chance to speak to as many of you as possible. As I mentioned to the few of you that I had the chance to meet in the lead up to the elections, my goal is to get the DC Part Time MBA community more connected with each other and facilitate building relationships between you that will hopefully last well after you’ve graduated.

So if you find me wandering the lobby during a break or hanging out at lunch please feel free to stop by and have a chat, especially if you have any major concerns regarding classes or administration issues at Smith. Best of the luck in the new term to all of you prior.

Antoine Foster, VP of Baltimore Outreach

Antoine Foster is a Baltimore evening student with a concentration in Supply Chain Management. He received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in Applied Engineering, with a minor in supply chain management. Antoine’s career consists of a combination of public and private sector purchasing. He is a Contracting Specialist with the University of Maryland, Baltimore. In his spare time he enjoys, working out, cooking, and sports. He looks forward to being a voice and resource for the Baltimore part time MBA students.

Jose Mendez, VP of Shady Grove Outreach

Jose’ has been a professional in the semiconductor industry for over 15 years with various leadership roles in manufacturing and process engineering sustaining. He is looking forward to maximizing his MBA experience and strengthening his skills while embarking on a new career path. As the VP of Outreach, he hopes to seek out the interests of the student body, and create more relevant and more frequent programs to meet the needs of the Shady Grove cohorts. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Physics (Electronics) from Park University and enjoys singing, watching sports, playing cards, golfing and bowling in his spare time.
PTMBAA News: Did You Know???

The PTMBAA 2011-2012 Board will end its term this month. The newly elected board will begin their term on April 1st. Please congratulate and welcome the new PTMBAA Board Members for 2012-2012!

Congratulations to the New PTMBAA Board:

President: David Croushore
VP of Outreach Baltimore: Antoine Foster
VP of Outreach DC: Vaibhav (VB) Thadakamalia
VP of Outreach Shady Grove: Jose Mendez
VP of Community Development: Adrian Lee
VP of Career Development: Ron Martin
VP of Finance: Matt Carey
VP of Marketing: Kristin Wagner