

MFE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Annual Review – November 2010

Introduction to the MFEAA

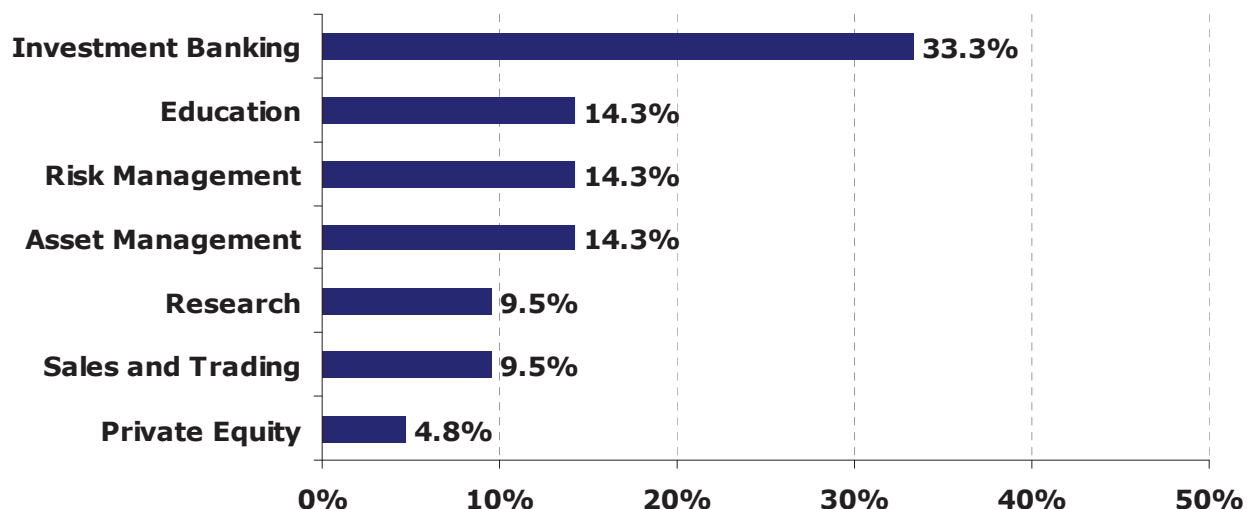
The Master of Financial Economics Alumni Association (the "MFEAA" or the "Association") is pleased to introduce its third Annual MFE Alumni Review (the "Review"). The MFEAA was founded in the summer of 2008 with the intention of maintaining a strong, active network of MFE Alumni and current MFE students (collectively, the "MFEs"). The MFEAA has undertaken to publish the Review with the objective of providing a factual, annual update regarding the professional details of graduates of the MFE program (the "MFE Alumni") and current MFE students, as well as to inform MFE Alumni about any new developments in the MFE program and to list the upcoming MFE events. The Association has historically published, and intends to continue to publish, one issue per year.



MFE Program – Summer Internship Statistics

The 2011 MFE Class recently completed their summer internships. As has been the case historically, the students were employed in positions requiring exceptionally strong analytical and quantitative skills. This year's summer internships were skewed towards investment banking, which represented one third of the class. The remainder of the class was spread fairly evenly across the other main analytical roles within the financial industry: risk management, asset management, research, sales and trading and private equity. Given the strong academic nature of the MFE Program, we were not surprised to learn that certain individuals completed their internship in education-related roles. The breakdown is as follows:

MFE 2010 Summer Internships – Industry Breakdown



MFE Program - Recent Developments

- ▲ The MFE Alumni Association recently established a board of directors, which consists of the Class Representatives for each year, and the Chair. Each board member will be responsible for providing, from time to time, insight and ideas in regards to opportunities to maintain, improve or enhance the role of MFE Alumni in promoting and developing the MFE Program.
- ▲ The MFE Students Association (MFESA) has elected its new council for 2010-2011. The Council consists of Jesse Lowry (President), George Sipsis (Vice President), Tyler Parrent (Class Representative), and Nick Exarhos (Communications Officer).
- ▲ The MFE Program has established its first award: the Brian A. Miron Graduate Scholarship in Financial Economics for MFE Students, in the amount of \$50,000. The donor is Brian A. Miron, MA Economics, University of Toronto. The award is based on academic merit and financial need.
- ▲ The Program Coordinator has launched a LinkedIn group for MFE Alumni. Please contact Ayesha Alli for details on how to join the group.
- ▲ The 2010 MFE class have launched the *Daily Roll* newsletter featuring daily market reports and articles of interest. MFE Alumni are welcome to subscribe. Please contact Tyler Parrent at tyler.parrent@utoronto.ca for questions or to subscribe.

Academic and Administrative Leadership of the MFE Program

Professor Varouj Aivazian is deserving of a tremendous degree of gratitude for his continued dedication to the MFE Program. In particular, we, the MFE Alumni, have been the beneficiaries of his perseverance, intelligence, and thoughtfulness. His unwavering inclusiveness of the MFE Alumni in the ongoing development of the MFE Program has contributed, in our opinion, enormously to the continued success of the MFE Program. Today, Varouj continues to co-lead the program alongside Professor Angelo Melino, who has also implemented several key improvements and initiatives in the Program, further ensuring that the academic quality and rigor is as strong as ever, and will continue to be so in the future. He is also deserving of our sincerest thanks for his efforts.

We would also like to formally welcome Ayesha Alli as the new program coordinator. She has over 10 years of administrative experience at U of T and York, both in graduate and undergraduate areas within a variety of departments. Before joining the MFE Program, Ayesha was the Business Officer and Administrative Coordinator at Historical Studies, UTM. She also held a role as Administrator in the Planning Program at the University of Toronto. The MFE Alumni are pleased to welcome Ayesha to the MFE Program.

Professional Leadership - MFE Alumni

We would like to remind all MFEs that the MFE Program is not yet a decade old, at least officially. The first "pilot" MFE program was actually launched in 1998 by Michael Berkowitz and consisted of just two students. For the next five years, Professor Berkowitz and his colleagues continued to develop and refine the principal elements of the pilot program, admitting four of five students per year who were ultimately awarded an M.A. in economics upon graduation. It was not until the 2004 class was admitted that the MFE Program obtained official degree recognition from the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies, and graduates of the MFE Program were granted the MFE degree upon graduation.

One obvious implication of the fact that the MFE Program is relatively young is that it has taken some time for MFE Alumni to rise to more senior positions within their respective firms. A typical path within the finance industry is for a junior (typically holding the title of Analyst or Associate) to serve for 4-6 years before making a meaningful jump into a position of leadership (i.e. holding titles such as Vice President or Director). In the past couple of years, we have begun to see the first wave of significant promotions of MFE Alumni. We thought that a number of such examples are worthy of mention in this edition of the MFE Alumni Review, and we highlight certain examples below:

- ▲ Carol Ann Northcott (1998), one of the two students admitted into the first MFE pilot program, is a Director in the Research Department at the Bank of Canada.
- ▲ Michael Barman (2005) is now a Vice President in Investment Banking at GMP Securities. Mike was previously an Associate at Canaccord.
- ▲ Jason Hanna (2007) is now a Vice President in Energy Trading at Citigroup, where he was previously an Associate.
- ▲ Eric Benner (2005) is now a Portfolio Manager in Global Corporate Securities at OMERS. Previously, Eric was an Associate at CPPIB.
- ▲ Danillo Simonelli (2005) is now a Portfolio Manager at Teachers' covering Emerging Markets Fixed Income.
- ▲ Anish Goorah (2007) is now a Director in Research and Analytics at Endurian in the UK.

MFE Alumni – Professional Development

On September 17, 2010 the MFEAA presented a breakfast seminar to over 25 MFE students titled: "*The Investment Banking Recruitment Process*". The workshop was focused on the skills and strategies required to be successful in the Investment Banking recruitment process. The meeting was very well received thanks to the Alumni that took the time to rehearse and

to prepare the slides and discussion topics, and to the enthusiastic MFE students that attended for their attentiveness and thoughtful comments and questions throughout the presentation.

The MFEAA encourages involvement and participation of MFE Alumni in similar types of events geared towards improving the professional competitive advantage of all MFEs. Such events are planned to occur from time to time throughout the academic year. To register your interest in contributing to this series of events, please contact Ayesha Ali (ayesha.alli@utoronto.ca).

Curriculum

The MFE curriculum is unchanged in recent years. Core courses include: Micro / Macro Economic Theory, Econometrics, Financial Economics I, Options & Futures, Corporate Finance, Security Analysis & Portfolio Management. A vast selection of elective courses is offered by the Department of Economics and the Rotman School of Management to round out each student's curriculum. Electives are typically chosen based on the student's specific employment objectives. For example, a student interested in quantitative finance might take Advanced Derivatives, Financial Risk Management and Financial Econometrics, whereas one that is interested in investment banking might take Mergers & Acquisitions, Financial Economics II, and Industrial Organization.

Rotman Trading Competition – MFE Winning Teams

Rotman Risk Management Association Credit Case Competition



In February 2010, the MFE Program competed in the inaugural Rotman Risk Management Association Credit Case Competition. It was adjudicated by 5 Risk Management professionals from the banking industry, including Scotiabank, TD Securities and Bank of China. We are pleased to report that the MFE Team won the competition, competing against a field of 8 MBA teams.

Winning Team

Jay Crone
Kunal Desai
Jonathan Khan
Alexandre Semenov

Rotman Asset Management Association (RAMA) Investment Challenge



A team from the MFE Program won the Rotman Asset Management Association (RAMA) Investment Challenge. The competition lasted a grueling 13 weeks, and the field consisted of 22 teams. The final and deciding competition was judged by nine industry professionals.

Winning Team
Kunal Desai Josh Emberson Jonathan Guilford Ryan Metcalf Jenny Milyutina Jakob Pizzera

Upcoming MFE Alumni Events

Friday, December 10th, 2010 (7:00 pm onwards): Holiday and Graduation Party

The most festive MFE event of the year is scheduled to take place on December 10th, 2010. The location is yet to be determined, but it will occur in the U of T vicinity. The annual holiday party is a great chance to celebrate another successful year for the MFE Program, and to congratulate the (near-) completion of the program by the outgoing second-year class.

December						
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All MFE Alumni and students are strongly encouraged to attend. Stay tuned for details on the location.

MFE Alumni Association Board of Directors / Class Representatives

It is the objective of the Association to establish a Class Representative for each graduating year; the representative in turn would be nominated to the Board of Directors of the MFE Alumni Association. The responsibility of each Class Representative is to maintain regular contact with each of his/her fellow graduates, to keep up-to-date employment details for each. As a board member, the representatives are expected to provide insight and communication in regards to the following: (i) opportunities to improve Alumni contact with the Program and its students for the benefit of all MFEs; and (ii) to communicate to the Board any