

May 16, 2008

[The following letter was sent to all students admitted to the Stuart School of Business.]

I am delighted to learn of your acceptance into the Stuart School of Business at Illinois Institute of Technology. I am pleased that you have selected business as your intended major and, as Dean of Stuart, I would like to offer you my perspective on what makes our school and undergraduate program special.

Academic Reputation

- The Stuart School of Business is fully accredited by AACSB International, a major accrediting agency of business schools, worldwide. We are one of only 555 business schools worldwide that can make this claim (April 2008).
- Stuart has a reputation in the areas of Environmental Management and Sustainability that has been recognized by the Aspen Institute. We are ranked 48 in the world of over 600 schools surveyed.
- IIT is ranked one of “America’s Best Colleges 2008”—a key component of which is peer assessment—and a “Best Value” national university by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Majors

Stuart offers majors in the following areas of business:

- Entrepreneurship – learn how to start your own business and how to think like an entrepreneur. Work with actual entrepreneurs thorough our Knapp Center for Entrepreneurship or with start-up businesses located on campus in IIT’s Business Incubator (Tech Park).
- Finance – gain exposure to the issues and tools of investment finance in Chicago, one of the world’s largest financial markets.
- International Business – study abroad; a minimum of 12 credit hours of business study from one of our partner universities in Singapore, Germany or Mexico is a requirement of this major.
- Management – Stuart collaborates with IIT’s world-class Institute of Psychology to offer leading edge coursework in human resource management, measurement, and assessment.
- Marketing – Stuart marketing majors learn how to write a comprehensive marketing plan for emerging businesses. One recent case study is Jitterbug, a cell phone designed to meet the needs of senior citizens. Other examples of marketing issues Stuart students have studied include alternatives to traditional textbooks and the design and development of “Quench Head,” a soda pop dispenser for dormitory rooms.

In The Classroom

Stuart classes are small, usually less than 20 students; often they are closer to 10 students. Our faculty members typically use teaching models that encourage students to fully participate in the classroom. This allows all students to gain the most from our faculty and from their education. Faculty will know you by name and work with you on all of your IIT issues. Our faculty do care about our students, often maintaining contact well after students graduate. Complementing the full-time faculty are carefully selected part-time faculty, all of whom have substantive real-world experience and teach students both the theory and practice in their courses.

Student Support

Stuart and IIT provide students with considerable support while they are here and after graduation. Stuart School of Business has two full-time professionals dedicated to career management, ensuring our students the opportunity of being prepared for the job market long before graduation. Recent graduates have started careers with several of the Chicago area banks (both investment and commercial), Chicago advertising firms and numerous smaller firms engaged in a variety of business, in both the manufacturing and service sectors of the economy.

The Campus Experience

IIT and Stuart offer an extraordinarily diverse campus with students from over 20 different countries, each reflecting the culture and market of his or her home country. This ensures that they learn to understand and work with student teams that reflect the rainbow of the Next Economy, including the two largest emerging economies in the world: India and China.

Our instructors reflect a blend of full-time faculty trained in the leading issues of their field and part-time faculty who have proven experience in business and industry. Our small class sizes and excellent faculty ensure that our students graduate with an academically sound and rigorous education tempered by the real-world expertise of accomplished industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs.

IPROs and EnPROs

The Interprofessional Projects Program (IPRO) and Entrepreneurial Projects Program (EnPRO) experiences engage teams of 10-12 students representing varying majors—including engineering, architecture, science, and others—and encourages them to develop solutions to a common challenge. These teams almost certainly include men and women who are members of cultures and ethnicities that differ from each other. These different views form the basis for innovation and creativity, if the team can learn to communicate across these lines.

The IPRO/EnPRO experiences also teach students to present their team's ideas succinctly to others in the form of an "elevator pitch" (a 60-second synopsis of the key points and findings of the project). Students learn to professionally present their work to a team of judges at the end of the academic term as part of the university-wide celebration of IPRO Day. These communication and presentation skills are more typical of a graduate education, rather than an undergraduate one, and set our students apart from their peers with business degrees from other American universities.

As I have outlined above, a Stuart degree truly opens a world of possibilities. Perhaps you will use your education to launch your own business venture, or you may be thinking of a career in a more traditional, established business setting. In either case, a Stuart degree will teach you to think differently about our global economy, allowing you to bring innovative and creative solutions to the workplace.

You are about to embark on one of the most exciting times in your life and I am very pleased that you are interested in making IIT Stuart part of your future. If you are a student looking for success in the Next Economy and a student that feels the need to focus on Technological Entrepreneurship to prepare yourself for an advanced global marketplace, I am confident you will find Stuart to be the place for you.

Sincerely,

Harvey Kahalas
Dean and Professor
Stuart School of Business