

# MILE MONTHLY MESSAGES

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS**  
Fogelman College of  
Business & Economics



THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS  
**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION  
FOGELMAN COLLEGE OF  
BUSINESS & ECONOMICS  
CHAPTER

February 2013

## Director's Message



Hi MILE Participants and Supporters,

Welcome to the January/February version of the MILE Monthly Messages. Due to the long holiday break, we didn't have a lot to report since the December newsletter, so we extended this newsletter to cover two months. So please enjoy the many great articles and lots of good photos of our events so far in 2013. We have had some wonderful programs already this year, with a highlight being the January program with TV's "The Little People" couple of Dr. Jen Arnold and her husband Bill Klein, co-sponsored with Michael Drake, Gary Wiseman and master-IT. I have never seen so many people stay after one of our programs to get autographs and pictures with our guests. Karen Kitchens then presented an extremely thought-provoking program related to Ethical Fitness and Moral Courage in February. Karen's was yet another program that provided our MILE Mentors and Protégés with many points of discussion for the rest of their year together.

Also in this newsletter are several interesting features, including an article on one of our top mentors, Jim Brasfield, and another on an outstanding group of student protégés, who have joined us from the UM IMBA Program. We also have updates from Elizabeth Benson on our Mid-South Food Bank meals competition and one from Zach Roberts on progress being made on the updates for our website.

Again I want to thank newsletter editor Jessica Veldman for her outstanding journalism work, as well as Tarranda Silas and the Management Department GA staff for all the wonderful administrative work they perform in helping to run the MILE Program. Nothing would work if not for the dedication and hard work of these fine individuals. And finally a thank you to the Chuck Pierce, Dean Rajiv Grover and Associate Dean Jasbir Dhaliwal for their administrative support in making the MILE Program an actual functioning entity.

I want to close by exhorting all of you mentors to consider re-upping to be a mentor again next year, and for you protégés who have some time left in your academic program to consider joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> MILE Program. Thank you all for your hard work throughout the year. Also please send us the name and contact information for anyone you think might make a good mentor.

Now please peruse and enjoy your fourth MILE Monthly Messages newsletter of this academic year.

Dr. Bob Taylor

### This Issue:

Director's Corner.....Pg. 1	February Meeting.....Pg. 3
February Meeting.....Pg. 2	Featured Protégés.....Pg. 4
Featured Protégés.....Pg. 3	Lipscomb & Pitts.....Pg. 4
	Zach Roberts : Web Master...Pg. 5
	Mid-South Food Bank Pg. 5

### Reminder:

### Last Meeting

**April 12, 2013**  
**Wilson HI at UM**  
**5:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

## February Meeting:



### Karen Kitchens

Karen Kitchens is a Programs Officer with The Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc (AFM). AFM ([www.assisifoundation.org](http://www.assisifoundation.org)) is a healthcare legacy foundation awarding grants to non-profit organizations in healthcare and human services, education, social justice and ethics, cultural enrichment, and the arts. Since its inception in 1994, AFM has awarded approximately 200 million dollars to nonprofit organizations in the Memphis metropolitan area. Ms. Kitchens focus areas for the Foundation are disaster and emergency preparedness, arts and culture, and ethics and education.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Kitchens was employed in the Workforce Development Division of Southwest Tennessee Community College as Director of Research, Planning & Accountability. She has over 20 years experience in the newspaper and cable television industries where she held management and executive positions in market research, information systems management, and new business ventures.

Ms. Kitchens holds Master of Science and MBA degrees from Christian Brothers University, and is a doctoral student in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Research at The University of Memphis, where her dissertation interest is the educational attainment of first generation college students. She also serves as an adjunct instructor in undergraduate business statistics and research for Bethel University, a regional liberal arts college in McKenzie, Tennessee.

## February Meeting: Photos



Dr. Bob introduces Karen Kitchen to all MILE mentors and protégés.



MILE mentors and protégés participate actively in Karen Kitchen's activity on Ethical Leadership.



MILE mentors and protégés engage with one another on activities.



MILE mentors and protégés listen intently to announcements and updates.

## January Meeting



Dr. Jen Arnold and Bill Klein, stars of the TV show *The Little People*, share their story with MILE protégés and mentors.



MILE mentors and protégés are excited to hear Jen and Bill speak.



MILE members are clearly enjoying networking with each other!

## Mentor Spotlight: Jim Brasfield



After graduating from the University of Memphis in 1975 with a degree in sales and marketing, Jim started a company in Memphis with a fraternity brother selling products and services to the computer industry. That business grew to the fifth largest company in the industry and was sold to what is now Staples.

As a business owner and currently as Sales Manager with National Security & Trust, his business experience ranges from document/workflow design and data collection to automated online data protection software and enterprise solutions for scanning processes. At National Security and Trust Company they have facilities throughout the Southeast USA and are a sister company to Vital Records Control. Their combined goal is to provide solutions that help businesses manage and protect documents and data.

In 2007, Austin Baker and Jim were members in a business networking program when he asked Jim if I would like to get involved with him and Dr Taylor in a start up leadership mentoring program at the University of Memphis. Jim was active with his local fraternity as the alumni board president and with leadership programs within that group. He saw participating with MILE as an opportunity to give back to the University and to bring some of his experiences to the advisory board. Jim remains active with his fraternity as their representative to the University Fraternity Alumni Advisory Council and still enjoys participating with MILE as advisory board member, as well as a mentor.

His interest in MILE runs parallel with his interest helping students with the fundamentals of building networking relationships. During the MILE year, He enjoys helping his protégé with the networking processes to identify potential relationships, discover a foundation, evaluate strengths, activate relationships, and sustain efforts in a positive career direction.

## MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL MBA PROTEGES!



**Anant Gupta:** Anant is a first year IMBA student from India with over 9 years of experience in the Software Products and Services sector in Technology and Management Consulting roles. He has worked across Asia and Europe for global firms like IBM, SAP and British Telecom. His specialties include: On-Demand Solutions and Cloud Computing and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software (SAP).

**Laura Terranova:** Laura is from Cali, Colombia and is currently a first year IMBA student. She has a BS in Exercise, Health and Sports from The University of Valle, Cali - Colombia and a MS in Health Promotion from The University of Memphis. She enjoys volunteering in different organizations, such as the Church Health Center of Memphis, the Mid-South Red Cross Chapter and Youth Villages.



**Shun Smith:** Shun is prior U.S. Navy and is currently in the IMBA program (Spanish Track). While in the military, she worked in the IT field, but after traveling to various countries, she became interested in International Trade and the process that goes along with it. While here at the U of M, she is trying to get her foot into the door of the International Trade arena.

**Nil Mishra:** Nil is from India and is a first year IMBA student. He has a Bachelors of Business in Accounting and a Bachelor of Law from India. He is a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, which is similar to the CPA in the U.S. He has worked for 10 years in the fields of Accounting, Risk Based Internal Audit, Fraud Investigations, SOX Compliance, Risk Management, and Business Analytics for both Deloitte and Tata AIG Life Insurance Co. Ltd. in India.



**Carli Morris:** Carli is a Memphis native and received her Bachelors in political science from UT Knoxville with a minor in global studies. She has interned locally at Archer>Malmo in the PR and marketing department; TeamLogic IT in marketing and sales and most recently, at Northwestern Mutual as a financial consultant. She is a first year IMBA on the French track and focused on marketing. She has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of MILE this year-- shout out to her awesome mentor, Rita Pomtree!

## Next Lipscomb & Pitts Speaker: Jim Abbot



Jim Abbot was born September 19, 1967 in Flint, Michigan without a right hand. He was an All-American hurler at Michigan, won the Sullivan Award in 1987;

was the pitcher for the Gold Medal Olympic Team in 1988; and threw a 4-0 no-hitter for the New York Yankees versus Cleveland . Jim played for 10 seasons on 4 different teams and ended his big league playing career in 1999.

Abbott has worked with The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) on several initiatives encouraging businesses to hire people with disabilities. Today, in addition to often being a Guest Pitching Instructor during Spring Training for the Los Angeles Angels, Jim Abbott is a motivational speaker. Jim lives in California with his wife, two children and their dog. His parents still live in Michigan. Jim and his family take the summer off each year to stay at the lake and visit with family and friends. Jim has a younger brother.

## Don't forget to check your email for MILE Monday Messages!!



## Upcoming Events

2013

April Graduation Program  
Speaker: TBD

Friday April 12  
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Wilson HI at UM

### Zach Roberts



Zach Roberts, senior Management Information Systems major, is a 2nd Miler this year. After completing his MILE experience last year, he was searching for a way to stay involved in the MILE program. In May 2012, Zach was selected to intern at AutoZone in their eCommerce department. Given his newly found interest in the field of eCommerce and the resources that

he had available to help him, Zach decided to delve into web design. To further hone his skills, he sought the opportunity to work with the brand new MILE website. Since then, this is exactly what he has done. In addition to regular maintenance on the website, he has accomplished the redesign of the “Protégé List” page and the creation of a “Mentor List” page. Zach will graduate in May with University Honors from the Fogelman College of Business and Economics, and he is currently searching for a job and exploring different opportunities to begin his career.

### Update on MILE and the Mid-South Food Bank

At the beginning of the year, the MILE Program committed to support the Million Meals Challenge benefiting the Mid-South Food Bank. Throughout the program this year many of you donated your time and food for the philanthropic effort and for this we are truly grateful! Including actual food donations and volunteer hours which were translated into meals (1 hour equals 42 meals) MILE gave a total of 17,229 meals!

February MILE Meeting Food Drive – 173 Meals

Holiday Food Drive (Volunteer Hours) – 4,704 Meals

Fogelman Feeds (Meals Prepared) – 10,042 Meals

Fogelman Feeds (Volunteer Hours) – 2,310 Meals

Overall, the MILE Program has helped the University of Memphis stay in the lead of the Million Meals Challenge with our most recent total of 308,000 meals. This is almost 6% of the University of Memphis total. Way to go MILE!



For more information, please check out:  
[Mile-Program.com](http://Mile-Program.com)