

# Alumni Notes

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## MI-G to Host 2017 National Convention!

On the evening of Oct 28th, the “Notorious MI-G” delegates landed in Providence, RI ready for the 110th Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association. Delegates from chapters around the country gathered in Providence for three days packed with professional development sessions, business meetings, committee meetings, inter-chapter exchange (ICE) sessions, and more. This year’s convention was particularly important for the MI G chapter.

In July, former chapter president and current advisor Kelsey Hockstad submitted a bid on behalf of the chapter to host the 2017 Convention in conjunction with the University of Michigan’s Bicentennial — the chapter had most recently hosted Convention for the University’s Sesquicentennial in 1967. Chapter president and voting delegate Sylvia Domanico was assigned as a member of the Convention Site Selection Committee. To assist in presenting the bid and in articulating the advantages of hosting in a location such as Ann Arbor, MI, she was accompanied by advisors Kyle Lady and Michael Benson, as well as officers Sara Rusignuolo and Jonathon McCormick. After thorough consideration of the bid and alternative site locations, the committee decided unanimously to recommend the Detroit-Ann Arbor area as the site of the 2017 Convention. In doing so, the committee noted that it was impressed by the number of projects the MI-G chapter had completed the previous year and with the passion and excitement the delegation showed towards hosting the Convention in 2017.



**TBP MI-G Officers (left to right):  
Jon McCormick (EVP), Maureen Daum (VP),  
Sylvia Domanico (President), Max Olender (Graduate Student VP),  
Stephanie Miller (Treasurer), Sara Rusignuolo (New Initiatives Officer)**

We are proud to announce that, following the committee's lead, the Convention was unanimous in approving the committee's recommendation. The goal of hosting Convention 2017 stretches back to the MI-G Centennial celebration in 2006, if not further. Over the years many students and alumni have contributed time and effort to making this a reality. We are truly grateful to everyone who helped in this undertaking so far. Our work, however, is just getting started. We look forward to, hopefully, seeing many of you back in town for the 2017 Convention, if not sooner!

On the second day of convention, attendees gathered for dinner to commemorate outstanding chapter advisors and announce chapter project awards. MI-G was awarded the Chapter Project Award for completing an impressive number of projects during the 2014-2015 school year. As former MI-G advisor and current Executive Director Curt Gomulinski, put it, "All I can say is, they're real slackers this year. 99 projects, 17th year in a row. They helped cub scouts earn their engineering badge and they lead activities at the Hands on Museum." In addition to representing the chapter, MI-G had a number of its alumni involved in many





**TBP MI-G Members (left to right):**

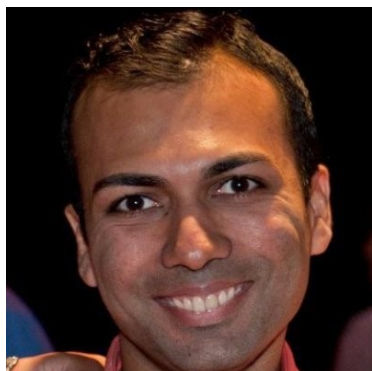
**Max Olender, Michael Benson, Stephanie Miller, Sara Rusignuolo, Kyle Lady, Andy Boucher, Mike Hand, Jon McCormick, Sylvia Domanico, Elson Liu, Maureen Daum, Pritpaul Mahal, Stephan King-Monroe**

aspects of the Convention. Former president and advisor, Elson Liu (AZ-A '99) served as chair of the tellers committee, managing both online and in-person voting. Former advisor Andy Boucher (MI-G '08), and alumni Cheryl Cheng (MI-G '00), Nancy Gray (MI-G '69), and Stephan King-Monroe (MI-E '08) attended as an Engineering Futures Facilitators. Former advisor Curt Gomulinski (MI-E '01) continues to serve as the Executive Director and Secretary of Convention. Former president and current advisor Mike Hand (MI-G '11) attended as the chair of the Student Advisory Board and as the secretary of the ongoing Governance Document Restructuring Committee. Current advisor Pritpaul Mahal (MI-G '07) attended as the president of the Ann Arbor Area Alumni Chapter.

The 2015 National Convention was brought to a close with a final dinner honoring outstanding alumni and major awards: the R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award, the J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award, and the R.C. Mathews Outstanding Chapter Award. While the MI-G delegation did not walk away with any of these awards, they did walk away with a renewed passion for the chapter and Association, as well as several ideas about how to help the chapter continue to grow and improve.

**Sylvia Domanico and Mike Hand**

## Alumni Spotlight: Semant Jain, PhD, CQF



While an engineering PhD student at the University of Michigan, Semant Jain served Tau Beta Pi's MI-G chapter as Tutoring Chair, New Initiatives Chair, and Treasurer. After graduation, Dr. Jain used his quantitative skills for industrial research and to start Ashwairya Capital Management. This month, TBP MI-G got a chance to catch up with him.

### **Why did you begin your PhD in engineering? How did graduate education prepare you for a career in finance?**

As an undergraduate student at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, I was the lead author on two research papers which were published in top ranked journals. So, I wanted to hone my computational mathematical abilities to independently solve intractable problems.

For my PhD, I researched intricate atomistic movement to explain onerous macroscopic behavior. My trading model uses similar ideas – capturing the footprint of a few key players to predict a market's turning point. My skills are easily transferrable whether I use them to identify techno-economic solutions in engineering or price derivatives in finance. Now, as a quant, I deploy quantitative strategies in trading commodity futures [E.g., S&P 500 (equities), Crude Oil (energy), Corn (grains), Gold (metals) etc.] to attain my goal of becoming a billionaire by the time I am forty.

### **Were there any specific circumstances that made you decide to start Ashwairya Capital Management? Why did you take the leap when you did?**

After meeting a fund manager with \$2 billion in assets managing risk through an attitude of "We're conservative in Texas" and the Finance Minister of Nigeria determining crude oil prices "by averaging the price over the last five years", I saw an opportunity to accurately model commodity prices through supply/demand and market sentiment analysis.

At work, I was paid six figures when my research saved millions at a company and enabled \$1 billion in sales to continue at another one. As individuals of a different race led the companies, being a minority (Indian), my progress was impeded. In an interview at a finance firm, the CEO told me, "You know more Math than the entire company combined." Yet, I was passed over in favor of a guy who shared the same race with the management. Clearly, if I wanted to reach my full potential, I had to start my own business.

All the same, until I got permanent residency, I could not start a business. Not willing to wait eight years, I established that I was an "Alien with Extraordinary Ability" (same category as a Nobel Prize, Olympic medal) – being a researcher who's had sustained international acclaim. The 1500 page petition included recommendation letters from U.S. Senators (NY) Hillary Clinton, Charles Schumer, and Governor (NY) David Patterson.

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**How did you transition to trading commodities? How did you know what to do?**

Using the industry's benchmark of 20% annual profit as a starting point, I worked 100 hours per week for two years to conceive my trading strategy. After simulations indicated ~50% annual profit, I filed incorporation papers with SEC to launch a quantitative hedge fund. I received a \$75 million investment offer, calls from "too big to fail" banks, and an invite to the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit. Soon thereafter, I made 20% in a month. Now, through kaizen, I make 1-2% daily.

Starting a business is a leap of faith. Self-confidence and courage come after having lived several times through uncertainty and having had smashing success.

**Can you provide more details about the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit?**

Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit is an annual gathering of the rising stars in diverse fields (e.g., Finance, Entertainment, Medicine, Food, Technology, Law etc.), young entrepreneurs with innovative companies, and those involved in social entrepreneurship. At the summit, we also had an opportunity to meet luminaries such as Sara Blakely (Founder of Spanx, self-made billionaire), Malaya Yousafzai (youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner), and Peter Thiel (Managing Partner, Founders Fund). They inspired us by discussing how they used the difficult moments in their lives as key turning points.

**What is your favorite memory of being in TBP? Do you have any fun stories to share?**

TBP offered me an opportunity to become long-lasting friends with equally driven fellow students over various socials and activities. When I covered New York Fashion Week, I stayed for a week at Adam Tury's apartment in Manhattan.

TBP MI-G hosted a post-banquet party in the President's house, so, initiation into the "college house party" scene was definitely a novel experience and part of my cultural adjustment to U.S.

**Do you have any surprising interests?**

At UM, I was on the Ballroom/Latin dance team and competed at U.S. nationals. As a Toastmaster, I've competed twice towards the World Championship of Public Speaking. Currently, I'm represented as a photographer by *Vogue Italia/Art1/Commerce*. As founder and Editor-in-Chief of *SJChronicle*, we've covered New York, London, Paris, Milan, Berlin, and Miami fashion weeks. Some of our editorials have been ranked #1 on Google and others comparable to *Vogue US* or *Vogue Paris*.

**For more information, TBP members can explore  
Ashwairya Capital Management's website ([www.ashwairya.com](http://www.ashwairya.com))  
or connect with Dr. Jain on LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com/in/semant](http://www.linkedin.com/in/semant)).**

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## Cub Scouts Day: A Great Success

*"The group leaders were awesome!"*

*"GREAT EVENT!"*

*"Great student leaders. Thanks!"*

These are but a few quotes from parents regarding this semester's Cub Scouts Day, an event Tau Beta Pi Michigan-Gamma hosts every semester. Word of our Chapter's amazing event is spreading far and wide: Scouts came from places as far away as Traverse City, and from outside of Chicago to northern Ohio.

On November 15th, Michigan Gamma, Charter partner of BSA Venture Crew 11, hosted our signature Cub Scouts Day event. As you can see from the parent feedback, we are happy to report that the program went amazingly well! Nearly 120 Scouts built and fired catapults, designed and destroyed bridges, learned about electricity and saved eggs from being splattered in our famous Egg Drop. Along with all of this fun and learning, Tau Bates taught the Scouts about the variety of engineering disciplines, and encouraged the youth to learn more about how engineers shape the society around them. Concurrently, and in a change of pace from previous semesters, we hosted an official College of Engineering tour for interested parents to learn more about our beloved College. They had a great time, and were excited to see the beautiful landscape on North Campus. As part of our mission to reach out to the College of Engineering community, we collaborated with IEEE-HKN, who opened their dB Café and



**Cub Scouts Testing Their Catapults**



**Proud Cub Scouts Showing Off Their Bridge**

provided coffee for volunteers and parents. Members of Alpha Phi Omega (APO), a national coeducational service organization, and the Epeians, Michigan's Engineering Leadership Honor Society, also provided enthusiastic volunteers for the event.

While we as project leaders dedicated a lot of effort to make Cub Scouts Day successful, this event simply wouldn't be possible without the excellent service provided by the Actives and Electees of Tau Beta Pi Michigan-Gamma, our friends in IEEE-HKN, APO, the Epeians, and the College of Engineering community. We are proud to work with the Leaders and Best at the University of Michigan, and look forward to Winter 2016's eagerly anticipated event.

If you will be in Ann Arbor next March and are interested in participating, please contact [cubscoutsday@umich.edu](mailto:cubscoutsday@umich.edu) for more details. As always, Go Blue!

**David Martel, Max Olender, Anastasia Ostrowski, Michael Benson**

**Tau Beta Pi Cub Scouts Day Project Leaders**

