



AALTO UNIVERSITY MBA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ALUMNI UPDATE 03/2015

The Value of Networking, Part 1 of 2

Now that summer holidays are behind us, it is a good time to revisit our goals and targets for the coming months. If developing your professional network isn't part of this plan, I would like to offer you some reasons why it should be.

Let me start with a definition. According to Merriam-Webster, networking is the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions; specifically: the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business.

Exchanging information enables you to build on your knowledge and expertise, stay on top of industry trends and share ideas. Meeting with other professionals in an informal setting and listening to their stories is a great way to think outside the box. Taking the initiative in the conversation by sharing your out-of-the-box ideas can validate your thinking, or the conversation can help you take your idea in a new direction. In any case, these conversations become the foundation of productive relationships.

Productive relationships with people with whom you share a common interest are an essential part of our personal and professional development. For example, if you are considering a career change or are looking for new opportunities (either now or down the road) then building your network - or cultivating productive relationships – is essential as it can lead to a meaningful introduction or invaluable information about the market that will help you land your next position.

Perhaps you can think of other examples of what networking can do for you, but whatever your motivation, becoming an active participant in the Aalto University MBA Alumni Association is an easy step to take. The Board of the Association organizes several events every year that are an excellent forum to exchange ideas, learn about a new industry and have some fun.

Join an event, follow us on Facebook, join our LinkedIn group or call your classmates – but whatever you do, add networking to your short and long term goals. You'll be glad you did.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

Comments and suggestions are more than welcome, brvakeva@gmail.com

Stay tuned for Part 2, Tips on Effective Networking - to be published in our next Alumni Update.



Barbara Ready-Väkevä
HSE Class of 2000
Association Board
Member

Professional Development Event was a success...

On a warm sunny Art's Night (Taiteiden yö) we were happy to welcome 65 alumni to an inspiring event in self-awareness, human brains and better decision making and influencing. This event, with experienced and talented speakers, offered food for thought about our inner motivation and drivers behind it.

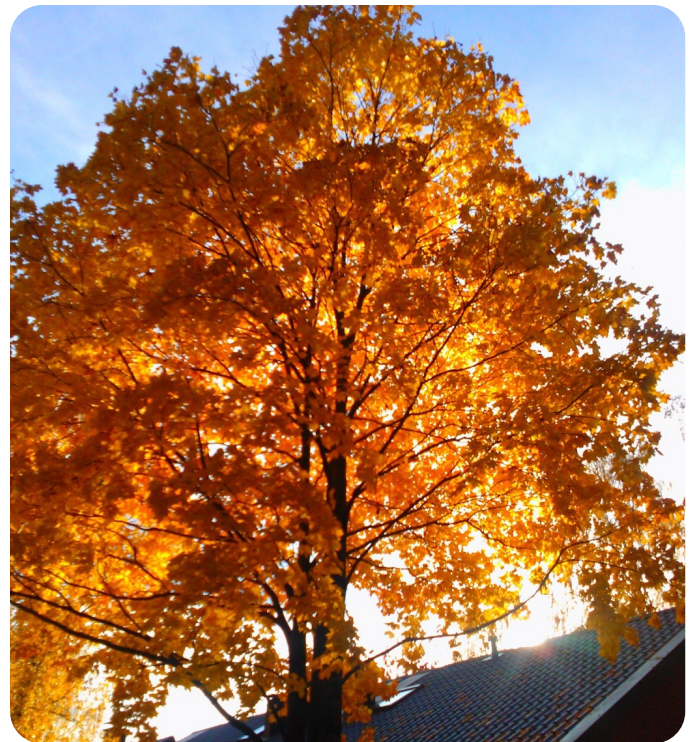
Marjo Kaihari opened the discussion on the topic "Me, We and Us at the workplace". Her enthusiastic start about different types of people at the workplace and how we could communicate better, gave the audience concrete ideas on how to cooperate more efficiently and avoid misunderstandings.

With an energetic style, Kimmo Feldt told the audience how recent research enables the measurement of how our brains react to stress and pressure. This knowledge makes it possible to improve leaders' and specialists' self-awareness and behavior in stressful situations – a powerful tool in leadership development.

Päivi Äijälä, passionate about coaching as the path for personal growth, works together with Kimmo and coaches both leaders and specialists on professional development. One main focus of her work is building cooperation and making good decisions even when under pressure and in highly stressful situations.

AaltoEE's staff took care of our catering with good quality for an altogether enjoyable event, after which there was plenty of time to join Art's Night and the beautiful summer evening.

Piia Heikkilä



.... Stay tuned for more

Invitations are now out for the JOLLA company event in September, as well as for ILMARINEN visit in October. There are a couple of seats left, so if you wish to attend, sign up fast. In November, we will be visiting one of the most successful Finnish companies ever, KONE. Next year will start with our Annual General Meeting and ABB company visit in January.

By paying the small annual fee, you are able to influence our activities by using your vote at the Annual General Meeting, stand as a board member or an officer of the association, and receive priority invitations to hear highly appreciated speakers. Not to mention enjoying the company of your peers.

Aalto University MBA Alumni Association Board wishes you a successful fall and hope to see you in our future events!

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