

DANIEL KUHAGEN
Harvard Business School, MBA Class of 2013

Harvard Business School Association of Germany e.V.
c/o ARCUS Capital AG, Mr Stefan Eishold
Ludwig-Thoma-Str. 29a
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Boston, May 2012

*Dear Mr Eishold,
Dear German HBS Alumni,*

Thank you for the kind support that you have provided me with during this academic year as part of the HBS Foundation of Germany scholarship. As I clean out my dorm room, two new boxes fill up quickly: one with the numerous case readings from our 300+ classes, and one with the photos and keepsakes from all the events and trips outside the core curriculum. It is the former that I came to Harvard for, and it is the latter that has made this year so special. Yet neither would I have been able to assemble without your generosity, for which I am very grateful!

As you will recollect, the [section experience](#) at HBS is at the center-piece of the education here, both on and off campus. Our trips took us from October-cold lakes in Maine and skiing in Vermont to some high-class culture in Las Vegas and to the rifle ranges of New Jersey as part of a 'cultural' excursion organised by our veteran peers. In Boston we met fortnightly for varying cuisine from around the world as part of our international dinner series, explored the city in party buses and collected over \$10,000 in our charity auction. While my girlfriend certainly appreciated me winning the bid on the CrossFit drill sessions (that were offered by a former army officer turned section-mate), I look much more forward to the monopoly game with our FRC professor.

If all this was not enough, the Student Association kept us busy even more. Black-tie events such as Hollidazzle and Newport Ball were accompanied by rather unique memories from outlandish events such as the [Priscilla Ball](#).

As much fun as the extra-curricular activities turned out to be, as little did I expect classes and faculty to be so enriching and entertaining in addition to the unsurprising academic quality. For anyone who has not visited a class, it is difficult to describe the vibrancy and surprising twists: Germans and Greeks taking the same stance during discussions of the Euro crisis; professors wrapping up ethics classes with unpublished sound snippets from interviews with Bernard Madoff; or strategy cases on Ben & Jerry's that start with a product tasting.

Moreover, this year also saw the introduction of the new [FIELD course](#) (the 11th course addition to the required curriculum). The debate is still on whether our class views itself more as guinea pigs or pioneers, but the impact, undoubtedly, has been significant. My personal highlight was the second part of the

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course, for which I got to work for Nike in Shanghai on their local online store, followed by some independent travel in a country that is mind-boggling when experienced on the ground (rather than just via media reports).

As one would expect from stories of HBS alumni, the first year also saw other extensive travel, both for leisure and career-wise. I spent the first days of January in LA on the Hollywood career trek, where we visited studios, production firms and online businesses in the media space and often received direct access to many of the industry's most senior executives. This offered not just a welcomed change from grey and snowy Germany, but also insights into what for me was a completely new territory. Spring break then was much more civilised than one could expect from the raging parties covered on European MTV, but not less sunny, entertaining and relaxing given we had the fortune of sailing the BVIs. Just what many of us needed as a refresher in between recruiting.

This summer now I'll be working back in my hometown in Munich, first for BCG in their insurance practice and later for Regiondo.de, a young internet firm that offers an online market place for leisure activities. In conjunction, they offer me the chance to see two new and very different functional and industry environments from what I have experienced previously in my banking job. Much like my first year at HBS.

One final word to all prospective HBS MBA students that will be reading this online: I can only encourage you to apply for the scholarship. The selection process is very applicant friendly and the potential reward a tremendously helpful support when participating in all the activities you will encounter during your two years.

Thank you again and very warm wishes from a sunny Boston,

sgd. Daniel Kuhagen