

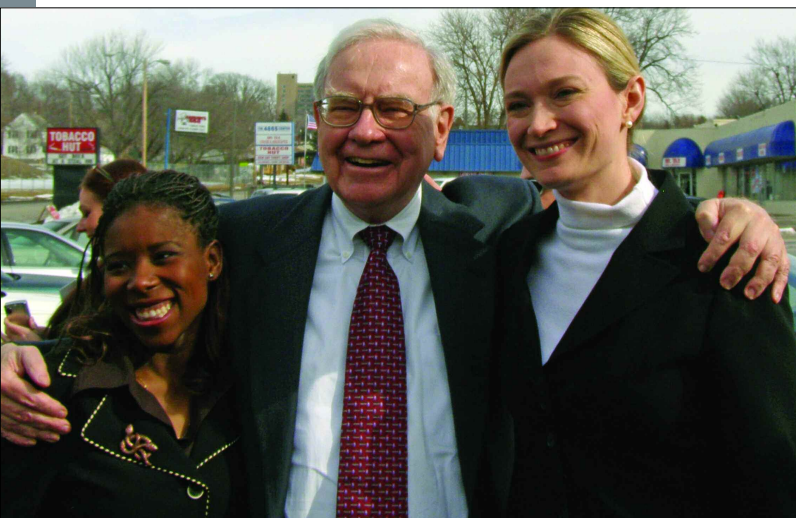
Day with Buffett leaves its mark

The 38 UNO CBA students will never forget their time with Warren Buffett.

UNO CBA seniors in investment portfolio management and MBA students in the fixed income management classes visited Buffett Feb. 19, spending the morning with him at Berkshire Hathaway followed by lunch at Gorat's Steak House. After welcoming students at Berkshire, Buffett opened the floor to questions, and the students were ready:

- "What is the relevance of commodity prices in today's global economy and how should companies use them in their financial planning?"
- "Would you credit your success as an investor to an accurate foresight of the future, company fundamentals coupled with a strategic vision, or something else?"
- "In determining the 'margin of safety' for a company and 'intrinsic value,' could you please explain these concepts in more detail?"

Buffett was ready, too, explaining the global relevance



Buffett warmly welcomed CBA students, including Destynie J. Jenkins (left) and Kate Clark.

of commodity prices, information requirements needed by an investor, and his take on the margin of safety.

Students in UNO's Maverick Investment program relished Buffett's advice to get their feet wet and then dive in, which is just what they had been doing. First National Bank of Omaha gave the program's graduate students the opportunity to manage a \$1 million fixed income asset account. A contribution by UNO CBA alumnus Colonel Guy M. Cloud created a separate portfolio that is managed by undergraduates in the portfolio management

course.

Students' investment decisions earned the portfolio an 18-percent return in 2006 to keep alive the Mav's streak of outperforming the S&P 500 every year since the fund's inception in 2000.

But Buffett did far more than share his views about investing. He encouraged students to recognize the valuable resources they had been handed by life and to invest in their own success.

John Szalewski appreciated Buffett's analogy about every human on earth drawing their life's 'ticket' from a barrel. Buffett asked students to consider whether they would be willing to trade their current ticket for 100 more draws from the barrel. "That really hit home with me," said Szalewski. "He has a way of making people appreciate what they have. He has a great outlook on life."

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UNO student
John Szalewski

Tyler Cary enjoyed Buffett's appreciation of his good timing historically. "My favorite comment was when he said, 'If I had been born 1,000 years ago, some animal would be chasing me. I'd be yelling, 'I allocate capital!' and the animal would be thinking, 'Those are the kind that taste the best!'" That was pretty funny."

Students also appreciated Buffett's emphasis on energetic hard work to improve one's skills, e.g., public speaking. Nolan Anderson and Michael Asmus noted that Buffett recognized that public speaking can be very difficult but that he believes it can be learned and improved. The two students were encouraged to hear about Buffett's own efforts to improve his skills because he believed, "That although some will be better than others, anyone can become a proficient speaker and writer — with practice." Early in his professional career Buffett purposefully developed his speaking skills by teaching several courses in investment at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Prior to the day with Buffett UNO students hosted a reception for students from the University of California, Davis. Professor David Volkman, chair of the department of finance, banking, and law, said that UNO students enjoyed hosting and networking with UC Davis students, who shared the next day's meetings. The students also visited and received business strategy presentations from two Berkshire Hathaway companies: Nebraska Furniture Mart and Borsheims.

"They anticipated that Warren Buffett would be impressive, but they did not expect his humor," said Volkman. Said UNO MBA student Kate Clark: "I'm still flying high! What an honor."