



Drexel MBA students capturing first place in international business competition

SACRAMENTO

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- **The Sacramento students had barely met each other before entering competition**
- **‘Everyone had an equal say in our decisions’**

Classmates for merely a week, when this group of five first-year MBA students from Drexel University’s Center for Graduate Studies in Sacramento came together to compete in an international tournament as a team they barely knew each other.

But 10 days later, Samuel Bradshaw, Justin Johnson, Alexander Malana, Bill Reaugh, and Shaun Youngberg not only knew each other well, they were in perfect sync.

The newly-minted Drexel students captured first place in the 2010 Spring Capsim Foundation Challenge, winning with a record-setting score in the finals, the university says.

The Drexel team finished on top in the business simulated game that drew 226 college and university teams throughout the United States and internationally.

Drexel’s score in the finals was 805, while second place Brigham Young-Idaho had 730 points.

It was a record high score for the Capsim tournament, which has been run twice a year for the past 11 years.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment for a group of new students who literally just entered our program,” says David Stewart, senior director for Drexel’s graduate programs nationwide. “The Capsim Challenge always has many top-tier schools competing, so winning it is a terrific achievement.”

The diverse skills of Mr. Bradshaw (software engineer for PMC Sierra), Mr. Johnson (mental health technician for United States Air Force), Mr. Malana (investment analyst for CALSTRS), Mr. Reaugh (regional manager for Draker Laboratories), and Mr. Youngberg (worker’s comp team leader for The Hartford), melded together right away. Over the competition’s eight rounds, the group met online or in person for an estimated 40 hours.

“When we started the competition we were just beginning to get to know each other, but right away we had some good group dynamics,” says Mr. Johnson. “We took an informal approach and everyone had an equal say in our decisions. Winning such a prestigious business competition was a nice surprise.”

The Capsim Challenge requires students to compete against both a computer and other teams by winning the most market share with a computer-simulated business. During the first round, the teams competed against a computer. In the finals, the surviving teams competed against each other.

The competition included teams from the University of California-Berkeley, University of San Francisco, St. Mary’s College, Oregon, Baylor, and Brigham Young universities, and countries as diverse as Canada, the Czech Republic and Austria.