Merage School Alumni in the Spotlight

The Merage School is dedicated to the principle that every graduate from our program has the potential to make a significant contribution both to their profession and to society.

We are pleased to spotlight Merage alumna, Kristen McAllister, FEMBA 2003, in this month’s edition of your Alumni eNewsletter.

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<th>Name:</th>
<th>Kristen McAllister</th>
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**Biographical Information**

**Undergrad:**
- **University Of California,** Irvine, June 2003, Summa Cum Laude
- Masters in Business Administration, Concentration: Business Strategy
- **California State Polytechnic University,** Pomona, June 1998, Magna Cum Laude Bachelor of Science: Major - Marketing Management

**Married:** Yes

**Kids:** No

1. **What are some of your fondest memories as a FEMBA student?**
   The final residential and the Belgium trip. In both instances we were all a bit more relaxed than usual and able to connect with each other as an entire class.

2. **How did you choose your career path?**
   Based on everything I have done to this point I looked back on what I had enjoyed the most and am most passionate about now.

3. **How has earning your MBA at the Merage School helped you in your business?**
   This question is asked quite a bit. The biggest take-away for me was working in a collaborative environment with the best and brightest in their individual fields. I learned to work better as part of a team and leverage the bits of knowledge on each subject into the bigger picture.

4. **Can you describe your company Cerius Interim Executive Solutions, and your role as Executive Vice President?**
   a. Cerius Interim Executive Solutions is the North American leader in delivering interim executive management solutions with the innovation and speed that businesses need to tackle their business opportunities or to mitigate risk. Cerius leverages the skill and experience of its deep pool of more than 500 Interim Executives, who bring the broadest array of industry and functional experience to deliver best-in-class leadership on-demand to the market.
   b. My role is primarily in business development and expanding Cerius regionally on a national basis.

5. **What particular skills do you think are critical for succeeding in the business world?**
   Listening and building lasting relationships

6. **What are some of your hobbies and extracurricular activities that you enjoy?**
   Triathlons, water skiing, snow skiing

7. **Is philanthropy important to you? If so, why?**
   Yes, most importantly to keep the cycle going. Very few, if any of us, are successful all by ourselves. Once you are in a position to give back in any way possible, it is important to keep the cycle going and help others.
8. How do you stay involved with the Merage School and your local community?
   I am part of the Dean's Leadership Circle at the Merage School. In the past, I have volunteered with the Girl Scouts and was on a non-profit Board of Directors. I have recently located to Washington DC and am looking forward to finding ways to contribute to my local community here.