

## **A Week in the Life of an MEMer**



**By Abigail Fontes (MEM 2008)**

Classes, seminars, workshops and extracurricular activities – that just about runs the gamut when describing a typical week in my life as an MEM student. To say that one's schedule is often hectic would be an understatement, but with a little well thought-out coordination, every week is a rewarding experience.

Courses have provided me with varying workloads throughout the semester, ensuring that every week, I learn something about topics that are almost poles apart, ranging from Wal-Mart's distribution strategy in Operations Management to the Business Law lecture on insider trading. I usually meet with different teams prior to each class to go over projects and presentations.

Since Duke presents a wide range of activities to involve oneself with, it is a shame if one does not take advantage of such opportunities. The time I have in between classes is dedicated to going to the gym, or working on a new project for Dr. Emma Rasiel in the Economics Department. I am trying to use my past work experiences in a project that will benefit Duke undergraduate students and so far it is shaping up nicely.

Seminars and workshops complement the course workload and have helped me learn about engineering and business principles and practices from experts. Held at the end of the week, seminars are a time where students in the program get together and listen to a relevant topic in today's business world. I usually participate in a workshop during the weekend, where I have picked up on other tidbits of business-savvy knowledge.

Last but not least, social activities are something we all look forward to, especially nearing the end of the week. They kick off with the customary after-seminar food spread, a great opportunity to meet with classmates and catch up. Chapel climbs, paintball, and movie nights are just some of the activities that unite students beyond the classroom and make the whole MEM experience even more enjoyable.