

MGIM Students Focus on Creativity

By Dr. David H. Henard

It is no surprise that businesses in all industries face challenging problems. The world of commerce is not a simple place. Often, there is no obvious solution for these problems, be they technology related or otherwise. Organizational leaders must tackle such situations with innovation and creativity because the issues - and thus the necessary solutions - are constantly changing.

In the Global Innovation Management program (MGIM), our students find themselves in a variety of circumstances that might seem out of the ordinary. One concrete example of this is our association with Ballet Preljocaj in Aix-en-Provence, France. One of the top dance organizations in France, Preljocaj is a globally renowned contemporary-dance company.

So, what would a group of engineers, scientists, and other technically oriented students be doing in a dance studio? One of the prerequisites of creativity and innovation is shaking your mind free of extant dogmas and retraining it to look at the world in a different way, with a different perspective. While studying in France, students attend sessions at the beautiful Pavillon Noir in downtown Aix where Preljocaj dancers and instructors teach them to explore concepts in a manner that is far different from that taught in a traditional classroom.

Dancers from around the world descend on Pavillon Noir to train with the renowned Preljocaj dancers. We don't expect to transform our students into world-class dancers (although a couple of them are quite good!); however, we do expect them to leave the experience with new perspectives. Oh, and the chance to attend several Ballet Preljocaj performances during their in France isn't a bad side benefit either.

For more details, please check out these video links:

MGIM Preljocaj Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA-78ec9TH0>

Ballet Preljocaj Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zJrF4MAoqM&feature=related>

Ballet Preljocaj Web Page: <http://www.preljocaj.org/>