Sally Yundt
Buzzi Unicem USA
Communications Manager

From Scholar to Graduate: Jed Fajt's MBA Journey Comes Full Circle

INDIANA UNIVERSITY MBA GRADUATE JED FAJT'S JOURNEY FROM FRANCO BUZZI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT TO MBA GRADUATE REFLECTS THE LASTING IMPACT OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND PERSONAL GROWTH. THROUGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING EXPERIENCE, AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, JED GAINED NEW SKILLS, VALUABLE RELATIONSHIPS, AND A BROADER PERSPECTIVE ON HIS FUTURE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

When Jed Fajt was named recipient of the Franco Buzzi Memorial Scholarship in 2024, he set out on his MBA journey at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business with an open mind and a willingness to explore. Now that he graduated in May 2026, that journey has come into focus—shaped by new experiences, evolving interests, and meaningful personal growth.

"I came in very open-ended," Jed reflects. "I initially focused on consumer marketing and brand management, but over time I explored opportunities in sports, human resources, and economic development." Today, his career direction has shifted toward development-related roles that emphasize relationships and partnerships, whether in the corporate or nonprofit sector.

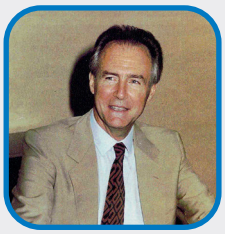
Jed's time in the MBA program was defined by both academic rigor and hands-on learning. Courses like Personal Finance, Foundations of Leadership, and Leadership Academy left a lasting impression, helping him build practical skills while developing his leadership style. Through the program's academies, he gained a blend of classroom knowledge and experiential learning.

1. PICTURED ABOVE AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY IN MAY IS MARK FAJT, QUALITY MANAGER, GREENCASTLE PLANT, INDIANA, HIS SON JED FAJT, INDIANA UNIVERSITY MBA GRADUATE AND MOTHER WHITNEY FAJT

Outside the classroom, Jed embraced opportunities to apply what he learned. During a summer internship with Festool USA, he worked on brand management initiatives, including QR code strategy and sales event marketing. One of his most memorable experiences came through GLOBASE, where he traveled abroad for the first time to consult for a technology company in Botswana. "It was an incredible opportunity—not just professionally, but personally," he says. Like many MBA students, Jed faced challenges along the way. Balancing the demands of coursework with networking and internship searches during his first year tested his time management and resilience. Yet, those challenges were matched by meaningful milestones, including meeting his girlfriend, Abby, whose support played an important role in his second year.

Central to Jed's journey was the Franco Buzzi Memorial Scholarship itself. "I would not be here without it," he says. "It alleviated much of the financial stress and made pursuing a full-time MBA possible." As a program recipient, he hopes his experience encourages others within the Buzzi network to apply. While his prior connection to Buzzi Unicem USA and the cement industry did not directly shape his career path, it left a lasting impression. "Working at the plant for a few summers gave me a strong appreciation for the employees who keep industrial operations running every day," he notes—an outlook he carried into his interactions with professional tradespeople during his internship.

Looking ahead, Jed plans to remain in Indiana or the Midwest as he continues his job search, with a focus in higher education, economic development, or nonprofit organizations. He also hopes to stay connected to his undergraduate alma mater, Hanover College, and become more involved in professional networks in Indianapolis and Bloomington. Reflecting on the past two years, Jed sums it up simply: "A challenging but rewarding experience that gave me new skills, relationships, and perspectives." His journey stands as a testament to the impact of the Franco Buzzi Memorial Scholarship. An investment not only in education, but in the future leaders it helps shape.



SCHOLARSHIP

FRANCO BUZZI

A RENEWED EDITION

The Scholarship in memory of Franco Buzzi has for years represented an important opportunity for talented young graduates wishing to pursue paths of excellence in the United States.

This year's edition is being renewed, offering — in addition to the established MBA programs — numerous master's degree courses (Master of Science) in other disciplines relevant to our business, broadening the educational offerings and the possibilities of access to high-profile academic experiences.

Each year, Buzzi will make available two scholarships intended for sons and daughters of our employees (and former employees) from the various countries in which the group operates, as well as for those that studied in Casale Monferrato (our home town), to attend a Master's program at some renowned U.S. universities.
The scholarship will cover not only tuition costs, but also the main additional expenses, including travel, stay, and accommodation.

Choosing to attend a Master's program at some of the most prestigious universities in the United States means acquiring top-level skills and preparing to successfully face the challenges of the future.

With this initiative, the company honors Franco Buzzi's passion for bright, deserving young people and for the United States, and renews its commitment to education and the development of talent, investing concretely in their potential while offering the opportunity to turn ambition and merit into an extraordinary experience of growth.

Discover all the details of the initiative and how to apply.