MBA students pitch to some heavy hitters

At Gustavson, we give MBA students two weeks before we start pitching leadership-hard questions and asking for tough decisions.

During the Essentials of Business Leadership module at the beginning of their program, small teams of students were handed the Kitimat Clean case study written by Dean Saul Klein and Professor Rebecca Grant.

In their teams, they examined the case of a proposed bitumen processing plant and wrote an article, ostensibly for the op-ed page of The Economist, China Daily, Victoria Times Colonist, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, National Post, or Globe and Mail.

After they’d analyzed the case with the appropriate lens, they had to present the salient points to a panel consisting of David Black, the businessman behind the Kitimat bitumen project; Andrew Weaver, a climate scientist and Member of the Legislative Assembly of BC; and Miles Richardson, the director of the National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development.

More of the story is on Gustavson’s blog now.

Norway’s global fund: How to not spend it

What’s a small democracy to do, when it’s running the world’s biggest sovereign-wealth fund? One story in The Economist, Sept 24, 2016. Gustavson students offered them some great ideas earlier this year. Can you spell 219% return?

JetBlue Makes One of the Largest Renewable Jet Fuel Purchases in Aviation History

The airline JetBlue has announced a ten-year fuel purchase agreement with bioenergy company SG Preston, for jet fuel made from rapidly renewable, bio-based feedstocks that do not compete with food production. This marks one of the largest renewable jet fuel purchase agreements in aviation history, and the largest long-term, binding commitment by any airline globally for HEFA (hydro-processed esters and fatty acids)-based renewable jet fuel.

Neste is a huge Finnish-but-international renewable fuel company. Their website can tell you more about their products and projects, if you want to explore this growing field.

The most-downloaded Journal of Cleaner Production articles in the last three months:

- A literature and practice review to develop sustainable business model archetypes
- The proximity of nations to a socially sustainable steady-state economy
- From a literature review to a conceptual framework for sustainable supply chain management
- And more...

Des pique-niques sans plastiques

France to bid adieu to plastic dishes with controversial ban, according to the Associated Press story of Sept 12, 2016. Suppliers have until 2020 to develop new sources of compostable cups, plates, knives and forks if they want to sell in France.