**COMPANY TRIP TO 3M, Decatur, AL**

On February 1st, 2008, **MBA CLUB** organized its first company trip of the semester to **3M** Company’s manufacturing facilities in Decatur, Alabama with the participation of 26 MBA students under the supervision of our Club Advisor, Dr. Santanu BORAH.

Our group arrived at 3M at 1 pm where our correspondent for the trip and also the Site, Environmental, Health, Safety & Regulatory Manager of the company, **Mr. Todd HOGUE** welcomed us. After the initial introduction, our trip started with the presentations of the Management given in the conference room of the company. In these presentations, Decatur Film & Materials Plant Materials Manager **Mr. Jim FINCHER**, Film Manager **Mrs. Rebecca MORLANDO**, and Production Manager **Tim WALLACE** gave valuable information to us both about their company and industry as a whole and also about the innovative practices applied in 3M, a company which is well-known and studied in the MBA programs for its culture based on innovations.

As we learnt from these presentations, 3M’s Film & Materials Plant in Decatur is currently the 3rd top manufacturing company in Morgan County with 850 employees currently hired. The company is also proud of its care for environment which is certified by many certifications, such as OSHA’s VPP, and EPA Performance Track Record. Moreover, during her presentation, Mrs. Morlando dwelled upon two major applications of the company, namely **Lean Six Sigma** which is adopted as an operational philosophy, and **TQRDC-E**, which is the acronym for “Technology-Quality-Responsiveness-Delivery-Cost-Environment”, initially a term coined by Hewlett Packard.

After the presentations which lasted around one and a half hours together with the Q & A session, our group was taken to a plant tour with Mr. Wallace accompanying us and giving information regarding the production process.

When the plant tour was over, we were ready to leave for UNA. 3M authorities presented us with bags full of 3M products, and now all of the participants have enough post-its sufficient for all our working lives☺

As MBA Club, we’d like to thank COB and specifically Dean Dr. Gatlin for their financial support, and also Dr. Santanu Borah for his support and encouragement for our organizations, and lastly the MBA students of UNA for their interest and participation.