



## **A CIMBA Spotlight with Scott Newton, MBA Full-time Class of 2002**

### **Please, tell us more about you, about your current and past jobs. How did you choose CIMBA?**

Hi! I am Scott, a Canadian based in Italy, Managing Partner at Thinking Dimensions, a Management Consultancy where I am a leader of the Strategy and M&A practice. In addition, I am building a portfolio of Non Executive Director (NED) roles, and taking small equity positions in Scaleup firms and funds.

I had been working in a corporate role, and decided to transition my career with an MBA. I knew I wanted deeper international experience, and as a result focused on programs that had strong global credentials. Lastly, the quant piece alone was not enough- I wanted to build skills in Critical Thinking, Leadership, and personal effectiveness. After evaluating several programs, CIMBA was my competitive winner!

### **Reminiscences of your experience in the CIMBA program. What was one of your favorite moment in the CIMBA Program? Favorite class, place? Difficult moment?**

We were fortunate to have a “super cool” full time MBA cohort. I am sure every group claims this, and yet at the same time there were so many diverse thinkers and a group arriving from as far away as Nepal, Ecuador, and Canada, as well as a strong European contingent. My favorite experience was working on a Six Sigma project with a group of hospitals based in Verona- incredibly challenging, and at the same time eye opening.

### **Favorite Class?**

Today so many of the instructors are good friends. It is risky to vote, however Karwan ran a fascinating operations management program that fit really well into our work on Six Sigma.

Difficult moments were more related to learning a new language, understanding what our clients really wanted to tell us, and combining as a group to overcome challenges. At that moment, it did feel very difficult, and today, looking back, those were simply moments to “break through” personal barriers.

### **What are some of the things that changed your way of thinking?**

1. Managing Ambiguity: While we may want to put life into little boxes and definitions, this does not work longer term.
2. Ability to Focus and Filter: During the MBA, there were moments where the workload was overwhelming, and only by focusing, filtering, prioritizing, and delegating to each other in our teams was it possible to achieve our goals.
3. Working in Multiple Languages: In North America, we may take working in English for granted, and obviously branching out to Europe this is not the case. For every single learner in our group, at some point we were working in a “foreign” language, and this was a wonderful and humbling learning point.



**What was the impact of the program on your life and career?**

The program had significant impact on my life and career: I would not be based in Europe today, would not have had several of the amazing opportunities I have been able to leverage, nor would I be working in Strategy, M&A, and Governance without the program. This is a theme I hear from so many of my colleagues and CIMBA participants: whether you are ready for it or not, CIMBA will change your life.

**What advice would you give current or prospective students?**

1. Trust in the Process
2. Focus on How you can Change
3. Reconfigure your existing Frames
4. Prepare yourself to embrace lifelong learning

**Can you share a dream/future goal?**

I am working with a series of organizations on building better circular business models- we discard and waste an enormous quantity of resources every day, and the solution is there when we focus on this. I want to deploy a circular business model and platform that eliminates waste, and encourages other organizations to join in the process.

**What inspires you?**

Learning, walks in Asolo, reading, listening to my wife cook (and provide me with suggestions on how I may help,) travel, visiting a museum, attending a lecture, learning from the challenges of others, nature...

**Is there something else you would like to add?**

We are so fortunate to be in a position where we have the opportunity and the resources to learn, grow, and develop the future. Let us all think how we can deliver IMPACT we are proud to be a part of.