

Special Interest Articles:

- Recruitment Update
- Class of 2016 Domestic Trip Highlights
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- Class of 2017 International Trip

Opening Remarks

Welcome! It is truly hard to believe that the holidays have come and passed and the new spring semester is upon us. We are eager to jump into spring and shake off our heavy winter coats as the sun begins to shine a little brighter and the crisp air becomes more welcoming for the early morning commute!

In this edition of *The Wall Fellows Journal*, we begin with an update on the recruitment efforts, as well as the current status of the Class of 2018. We will reflect on the Class of 2016's domestic trip to San Diego and will hear from Laura Thareau '16 as she shares her experience as an intern at Tesla Motors. Finally, we will count down to the departure of the Class of 2017's international trip.

With warmest regards,

Jada Bynum '16 and Lainey Lewis '17



Wall Fellows Class of 2016
Back row, from left): Kevin Hoffman, Laura Thareau, Alina Tananova and Nicholas DiDuro. (Front row, from left): Kevin Connelly, Micaela Antzoulatos and Jada Bynum.

Wall Fellows Class of 2017
(Back row, from left): Jonah Skiles and Lainey Lewis.
(Front row, from left): Olivia Carlton, Beatris Petelkova and Geoffrey Guyette.



Recruitment and the Class of 2018

The spring semester marks the application and interview process to decide the next class of Wall Fellows. The recruitment team worked diligently this past semester to connect with sophomores that might be interested in applying for the program. The hard work of Nick DiDuro, Geoffrey Guyette, and Steven Vanden Heuvel, as well as the other Wall Fellows, definitely paid off this year based on the number and quality of applicants. We are excited about the interest for the new class. This year, we had 26 students submit applications for the Class of 2018.

Through various classroom presentations, organization booths and informational sessions, we have been able to reach students through many outlets and opportunities. This process has allowed for the recruitment team to not only reach out to sophomores, but also connect with prospective freshmen. We have compiled a list of first-year students who have shown interest in the program and may pursue becoming a Wall Fellow in the future. We hope to continue encouraging students to apply so that we can continue the program with bright, proactive, hardworking scholars who hope to build a better future.

The interview process for the new Wall Fellows class concluded on Feb. 15, and 10 students were selected. We are excited to announce the following students as members of the Class of 2018: Myles Anderson, Sean Edwards, Kaylea Gassaway-Rea, Ross Kunmann, Sora Lebowitz, Gerry Madden, Darien Rexach, Mickayla Smith, Josh Stilley and Emilie-Kate Taverenier. Look for an in-depth introduction to the newest Wall Fellows in our next issue.

The Class of 2016 Domestic Trip

The winter break brought the Wall Fellows Class of 2016 a new adventure with their domestic trip. During the week of Jan. 5, six of the seven class members traveled to San Diego, Calif., for a hands-on look at West Coast culture and business practices.

Upon arriving in California, the class met unexpected and unusual weather conditions of El Nino. Despite the rain and colder temperatures, the group was able to make the most of its visit and experience the best of what the area had to offer.

The first item on the itinerary was a personal visit from Reut Schwartz-Hebron, the founder of the Key Change Institute. Schwartz-Hebron, who has a rich background in consulting, neuroscience and the Israeli military, shared the principles of embracing change through the process





of “unlearning.” Her conversation provided the right perspective for us to open our minds to learn and grow through every opportunity this trip afforded us.

The group conducted several company visits with a variety of businesses. The first visit occurred at Stone Brewing Company in Escondido, where we had the pleasure to converse with Chris Cochran, community relations manager, about the unique history, innovation, culture and diversity of Stone before a personal tour of the brewing facilities by Ken Wright, the public relations “minister.”

The following day, we attended a meeting at Torrey Pines Golf Course with PGA professional and golf course manager Scott Bentley. Our time with Mr. Bentley granted us insight into the operations of a public golf course, including the ins and outs of working with the city and state government while remaining relevant in the golf industry.

Next, we traveled to the heart of downtown San Diego to Merrill Lynch for a conversation with Joseph Holsinger, managing director of global wealth and investment management for the greater San Diego area. In addition to information on Merrill Lynch and his time with the company, Holsinger offered invaluable advice on finances, work-life balance and embracing cultural differences as a young professional. He also gave each of us a copy of *The Little Book of Business Wisdom*.

Our final two business connections were visits with entrepreneurs Katie Clark and Carrie Woodburn. Clark, professional photographer and owner of Katie Clark Fine Art, met us in Laguna Beach and gave us a personal tour of the Ritz Carlton Hotel where her work is displayed. She shared with us about how she started her company, her experiences of working in the hospitality industry and how artists promote themselves to become primary vendors for major clients like the hotel. Next, we drove to Lake Forest and met with Woodburn, the founder of Sterling Medical, Edgy G,



Thrive in Emergency and Alchemy of the Heart. She shared the background and operations of her businesses while offering advice on how to capture our own ideas and use our passions to drive our work ethic.



In between company visits, we were able to sightsee along the coast, spending time in San Juan Capistrano, Balboa Park, Point Loma, La Jolla, Laguna and Pacific Beach. Each stop showcased the diverse nature of southern California and the complex history of the area. Wall Fellows Class of 2013 alumna Samantha (Wright) Leigh and her husband Chip also joined the group for dinner one evening. We enjoyed meeting her and hearing about her time in the program, her journey after graduation and her current study in the Ph.D. program at Scripps Institute.

This journey set the tone for the Class of 2016’s final semester together at Coastal Carolina University. Together in San Diego, we made memories, learned lessons and strengthened friendships that will last a lifetime.

Internship Spotlight: Laura Thareau

Company: *Tesla Motors*

Location: *Fremont, Calif.*

Duration: *August 2015 – January 2016*

Position: *Global Health Initiatives Intern*

After the Wall Fellows Class of 2016 international trip last spring and a Maymester study abroad program in China, senior Laura Thareau relocated to California with her husband, Damien. She quickly began completing her CCU coursework through distance learning and searched for an internship while settling into her new home. Unable to find an opening in training and development like she originally hoped, Thareau broadened her search to human resources positions. “It would be an excellent opportunity to get to know a company and build my understanding of the HR field,” said Thareau. “After a few over the phone interviews, I was offered a role with Tesla Motors!”

Thareau’s internship at Tesla began with an all-day training and onboarding event to share the company’s mission, vision and excitement with new recruits. “By the end of the day, the Tesla vision was, and still is one, I believe in and it made me proud to be a part of the movement toward sustainable transportation.”

As a member of the global health initiatives team, Thareau helped the workers’ compensation analyst, the leaves team and the benefits team. She also worked hand-in-hand with employee health and safety. “The exposure I received on this internship supported so much of what I studied at Coastal,” said Thareau. “Thanks to my Coastal coursework and the Wall Fellows Program, when I attended meetings I understood what was talked about and had insight to share.” Her favorite part of the internship was working with the benefits team to support a monthlong annual enrollment event. “I feel at my best when I am able to meet people from all over the organization, learn about them and share experiences with them.”

Thareau found working on the team was an excellent fit and priceless training for her future career aspirations. As her internship came to a close, she was offered a full-time position with the global health initiatives team, which she accepted. “We are working on building a lot of programs and infrastructure for the organization,” said Thareau. “I am thrilled with the opportunity to be part of this team and working with some awesome people!”



Class of 2017: International Trip



The countdown for the upcoming Wall Fellows Class of 2017 international trip has started and excitement has reached peak levels. For some of us who have never been outside the continental United States, the opportunity to travel abroad for two-and-a-half weeks seems almost surreal. With the flights set and passports ready, we are eager to set course for the adventure ahead.

The Wall Fellows will be traveling to Reykjavik, Iceland; Dublin, Ireland; and London, England. We will be departing on May 6 and after a whirlwind of tours, meetings, food ventures and cultural experiences, we will return on May 24.

We will begin our adventure in Reykjavik, where we will spend eight days of our journey. During this visit, we will visit on-site with companies Lysi and Star-Oddi. Lysi and Star-Oddi project sponsors are Coastal alumni, and they are eager to meet with us. We will be spending three to four days meeting with the companies and delivering our final project presentation. We are all excited to be assigned a hands-on project such as this that will build our experience and skills in a real-world setting. We have also been invited to the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik and will have the opportunity to meet with the ambassador. In addition to working with our companies, we will experience the cultural aspects of Iceland.

After our trip to Iceland, we will be flying to Dublin, where we will be spending four days. We will be meeting with a Coastal alum who works with Google, and we are planning visits to other corporations headquartered in Dublin. In addition, we will explore other activities to learn more about the culture and history of the area. For the last leg of our international trip, we will be flying to London, where we will visit with corporations and learn about the history and culture of the city. We will meet with the Coastal study abroad group for activities there as well.

We look forward to spending time abroad and learning about the different cultures that exist in our world today. Although our visit will be a mere keyhole view of all that this world has to offer, we know we will forever be influenced and reminded of our Wall Fellows class international trip.

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