

The Wall Fellows Journal

Special Interest Articles:

- A Letter From Dario Grassini
- Internship Spotlight: Jordan Lauver
- Thank You for Giving!

Opening Remarks

A new year has begun and with it comes new opportunities to broaden our horizons. As Wall Fellows, we always strive to make the best of every opportunity that can help us learn, grow and change for the better in both our professional and personal lives.

In this issue, you will find an update on alumnus Dario Grassini and read about Jordan Lauver's internship experience.

Happy New Year!

Meghan Laffin '14 and Jordan Lauver '15



Wall Fellows Class of 2014
(From top left): Meghan Laffin, Zachary Burns, Naomi Dantzler, Britany Higdon, Cora Panos and Dominique de Wit



Wall Fellows Class of 2015
(From left): Jordan Lauver, Scarlett Trainor, Steven Vanden Heuvel, Ashley Barteck, Chase Vickery and Casey Burnett



Alumni Spotlight: Dario Grassini

Dario Grassini '06 has embarked on a wild ride since graduating from CCU. After graduation, he went to work for a Big 4 audit firm in New York City, however, a few years later, he found himself in the midst of a financial crisis.

As a native of South Africa, Grassini worried about looming layoffs and the subsequent loss of his visa. A move to a different firm seemed proactive, but a few months later his new employer restructured and Grassini found himself unemployed once again.

Determined to find his niche, he packed a backpack, bought a plane ticket and flew to Europe. He traveled from Paris to Prague and then to Holland before returning to South Africa to work with the CFO of FIFA during the 2010 World Cup.

That job led to another, and then another, but none of them were what Grassini would describe as “fulfilling.”

“It’s been a roller coaster ride,” he said in an online interview, in which he also wrote the following:



“Over the past four years I’ve been in the US, Africa, South America and Europe and have worked various jobs that included accounting, auditing, finance, operations, sales and marketing, strategy, logistics, legal and HR responsibilities. I’ve tried various entrepreneurial endeavors, traveled, studied new languages, worked to develop various skill sets, survived a near-fatal car accident, helped support a single mother I dated and relocated to Europe to try to attain “a better life.” I have battled many crossroads, confusion and difficult choices along my journey, but none that my time at CCU and in the Wall Fellows program didn’t help prepare me for in some way by providing me with the many tools necessary to navigate through relatively rough waters. That being said, I’m grateful for never truly being in harm’s way or having to face terrible or desperate times.”



Dario Grassini

Grassini says that even to this day, he is still tremendously grateful for the opportunity he had as a student-athlete and Wall Fellow. He said the experiences he had and the friends he made still hold a special place in his heart. “I’ve seen many friends go on to do great things,” he said. “I’ve grown to see them as excellent examples of how to take responsibility and make the most out of any situation.”

Grassini is now living in the Netherlands and is seated at yet another crossroad. He has been selected to be part of a Top 5 European MBA program, has been recruited to be the CFO of a New York City boutique consulting firm, and also has ideas for starting his own business.

“Maybe I should just roll the dice,” said Grassini. “I’m positive, whichever way it lands, I’ll make the most of the situation... I’m excited to see what’s next.”

Internship Spotlight: Jordan Lauver

The beginning of the Spring 2014 semester brings the six-month full-time internship of Jordan Lauver to a close. Starting in July, Lauver began his tenure with the nonprofit Waccamaw Community Foundation. This philanthropic organization works alongside donors and nonprofits in both Horry and Georgetown counties.

“I never expected to have all the experiences I did over the course of my internship,” Lauver said. “It was an honor to be entrusted with the tasks I was given, ranging from administrative work and special projects to working directly with our donors.” During his six months with Waccamaw Community Foundation, he was a jack-of-all-trades intern. His duties included managing incoming calls, assisting with scholarship distributions, helping compose the current issue of the Waccamaw Community Foundation newsletter, *Wavelengths*, and a variety of special projects.

“There are many special advantages of interning at a nonprofit,” Lauver said. “I was able to gain experience at all levels of our organization.” He attended and kept minutes for board meetings, met with existing and potential donors, and was able to work alongside other nonprofits in the Waccamaw region.



Jordan Lauver

While his internship has come to a close, Lauver is now working with Waccamaw Community Foundation on a part-time basis. “I am so grateful that I can continue to work for this organization that truly helps make a difference in the local community” he said. “It is an honor.”

Thank You!!

For those of you who gave generously to our program this holiday season, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you. The Wall Fellows Program is self-funded and relies on the generosity of alumni and supporters. Additional funding ensures that the program can continue to deliver the learning experiences and opportunities that are needed to prepare the students “not for their first job, but for their last job.”

If you are interested in giving, several options are available. The first is online at coastal.edu/business/giving.html. Select the Wall Fellows Program as the designation for your gift. Enclosed you will find a pledge form for your use (should you prefer to make a gift with a check).

If you have questions or would like to discuss the program along with its financial needs, contact Gina Cummings, director of the Wall Fellows Program, at 843-349-4186 or at gcummings@coastal.edu.

Thank you again for your involvement, support and participation. Your investment in the Wall Fellows Program is allowing students to experience incredible opportunities every day.