

THE CORINTHIAN COLUMN

STONEHILL COLLEGE MU OMEGA CHAPTER

OF BETA ALPHA PSI NEWSLETTER

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Why Beta Alpha Psi Is More Than An Honor Society

by Hannah Poist '16

The Business Department just recently celebrated its annual honors ceremony for business majors and, we inducted 2 new members into our Mu Omega chapter – **Michaela Farrell** and **Megan Ruonavaara**. The event gave me the opportunity to reflect on the value of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) at Stonehill and the differentiated impact on its members and candidates. As an honor society, BAP uniquely requires both scholarly achievement and a commitment for professional development and community service. All of which have been proven as keys to success in the accounting profession. Admittedly this can be a bit demanding throughout the year – but in retrospect, it is of great value to Stonehill and us.

As a chapter, we established high but achievable goals for 2014-15. Officers attending the BAP annual meeting in Atlanta last August inspired all to seek *Superior Chapter* status again this year and create interesting opportunities for learning and bonding as a group. It was our opportunity to make our mark, and as I look back on the year, I think we did a pretty good job.

Early in the semester, **Kayla Hanish**, **Adam Marcoulier** and I completed a promotional video for our *accounting program* page on the College website to (1) share our reasons why we chose to study accounting and (2) to share our experiences with prospective students considering this career path at Stonehill. We are not quite ready for Hollywood but it was a fun and interesting project. Check out Kayla's thoughts on the experience in an article within the newsletter!

We had two other major projects this semester – a seminar on personal finance and a blogging experiment to stay in touch with chapter candidates that went abroad this semester. Both projects led to presentation ideas that enabled six Mu Omega students to compete at the Atlantic Regional Meeting last month in Washington D.C. This was a wonderful opportunity for our chapter because it was our first time competing in *Best Practices*, a goal we set following last year's regional in Hartford. How did we do? Great! We placed first in the International competition and third in the Financial Literacy. This was a huge accomplishment for our chapter and I would like to congratulate and thank the women that represented us against some of the best universities in the Northeast. We have been asked to compete in the national competition for International *Best Practices* in August and hope for great things there as well.

There is much to share on these activities and more. I encourage you to read the rest of this newsletter to get a feel of the activities and accomplishments of the chapter. I had a wonderful year being a part of it. If accounting interests you as a major, the best people to talk about it are in Mu Omega. We are always happy to help.

Want to learn more, go to www.stonehillbap.org and check us out.



Beta Alpha Psi is a non-profit honorary and service organization for accounting and financial information students of AACSB- or EQUIS-accredited colleges and universities. The primary objective of Beta Alpha Psi is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information field.





Thanks, Thoughts and Observations

by Michael Mullen CFA, CAIA, Faculty Advisor for Mu Omega

As the Mu Omega chapter finishes its fifth year as part of the Stonehill College student activity scene, we cannot help to see the positive impact it has had and the opportunity it has created for all students at the College. Yes, Beta Alpha Psi is an honor society for accounting majors but the educational and social initiatives it has undertaken over these past five years have had a visible impact on the Stonehill community including students, faculty and alumni. In the brief period as a BAP chapter, we are well on our way to becoming a well-respected member of the Beta Alpha Psi national community having earned *Superior Chapter* status last year and winning the *E&Y Diversity Competition* in 2013. And in our first effort in competing in the *Best Practices* competition sponsored by Deloitte this past March, we took first and third place in the two challenges that we participated. On behalf of the faculty and administration of the College, we are very proud of our student's creativity, talent and work ethic.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our accomplished alumni base with their personal time and professional resources. This year we are excited to welcome to our list of *Platinum Sponsors* the "Big Four" accounting firm EY, which also has committed to stepping up recruiting for its Sophomore Leadership Experience and summer internships. But we also extend our sincerest thanks to the ongoing support from great firms such as PwC, G.T Reilly, BlumShapiro and Wolf & Co. as well as individual contributions from our outstanding accounting alumni network. Our drive to be among the best chapters in Beta Alpha Psi is in part our thanks to them for paving the way for future accounting graduates of Stonehill College.

As the academic year winds down and the class of 2015 moves on, we will begin to turn our attention to opportunities in the new academic year. Plans are coming together to attend the BAP national meeting in Milwaukee, WI this August where our students will compete in the *Best Practices* final in the topic of International Impact. In the coming months, we also plan on the creation of a Mu Omega Alumni Advisory Board led by former Mu Omega president Samantha Lindquist Carrico. As a new initiative, we have been granted the opportunity to mentor the petitioning chapter at Iona College and hope to begin assistance before the semester end. And of course, this summer we will select the next class of outstanding candidates. While much of what we do is the same each year, we nonetheless use the opportunity to do what we do better than the year before.

“Let’s Talk Money” A Personal Finance Seminar

Addressing The Financial Literacy Gap at Stonehill

by Victoria Mello '16

An undergraduate education should prepare students for the next step in their lives—be it a career, postgraduate education, or service. Far too often, however, students leave college unprepared for the web of financial decisions that accompany graduation. Unfortunately, personal finance education plays little into the curriculums of many colleges, including Stonehill, and little on the minds of most undergraduates. Upon graduation, seniors must face the burdens of dealing with loans, renting a first apartment and choosing between insurance options—all while adjusting to the realities of life after college.

In an attempt to ease this transition into life outside the “Stonehill Bubble”, our Mu Omega chapter partnered with the Accounting Association (AA), Marketing and Management Association (MMA) and the Financial Management Association (FMA) to host the first annual “Let’s Talk Money” Personal Finance Seminar targeted at upper classmen nearing realities of life after graduation

Held on the last Saturday of February, the seminar focused on addressing seniors’ questions on crucial aspects of personal finance and the tough decisions they may have to make following graduation. Set up as an interactive question and answer session between an expert panel, BAP student panel, and the audience, the event got everyone in attendance engaged in the discussion. We were honored to have on the expert panel Jim Scanlan '83 of Weston Financial (Wealth Management), Bill Husic of the Lockton Company (Insurance) Beth Santella of North Easton Savings Bank (Mortgage Specialist) and two members of the faculty, Professor Glen Ilacqua (Taxes) and Professor Michael McCall (Fraud Specialist).

The two-hour session went by quickly as discussion centered on the individual expertise of the panel. The discussion included real world questions seniors may soon have to answer, including such concerns as: Should I prioritize saving or paying off my student loans? What insurance plans do I really need as a young professional? What should I do if I am a victim of identity theft? And finally, what are my options when it comes to saving for retirement?

The event attracted over 80 students, many of whom took advantage of the opportunity to talk one-on-one with the experts after the question and answer session was concluded.



BAP Officer Mike Hogan (l) and guest presenter Bill Husic (r) of the Lockton Company (Insurance).

Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive with 96% of participants responding that the event was highly valuable and 75% saying the discussion addressed their most pressing postgraduate financial concerns. By hosting this event, the Mu Omega chapter was able to enhance seniors’ confidence to handle sometimes-complex financial issues that may provide them a better start in life post graduation. Our Mu Omega chapter was thrilled by the success of this event and is looking forward to repeating it in future years.



Hello From Ireland!

by Emma Donovan '16

Over the past few months, I have been travelling this beautiful green country (as well as some other ones), seeing and learning about all it has to offer. I've tasted wonderful food, met some great people, and studied for class a little bit too! This semester, I am studying general commerce at University College Dublin in Ireland. Although it is not over yet, I think the greatest thing I will take away from this experience is the ability to step outside of my comfort zone. I have left my small, intimate classes in Stanger for huge 200-person lecture halls. I've learned to navigate foreign countries with nothing but a map (Wi-Fi is few and far between in Europe!). And lastly, much to my dismay, Sodexo couldn't transfer my meal plan across the Atlantic Ocean, so I've been cooking for myself!

Although I love my abroad experience, I can't help but feel a little homesick for my home-away-from-home in Easton, MA. Being away from Stonehill has definitely made me realize (as if I didn't already) how special of a place it truly is! Being active on the Stonehill BAP blog is just one of the great ways I have stayed in contact with my friends, classmates, and professors back at the Hill. Sarah Dunn, another Stonehill BAP student who studies in Dublin with me, and I love logging on and reading about everyone's journeys across the globe. It is so interesting to learn about everyone's different experiences, whether it be tackling classes taught in a different language, taking trips to see other classmates, or working internships at big-name international firms. In addition, reading about everyone's countries just gives us an excuse to plan another weekend getaway!!

We especially love being able to keep track of what's going on with BAP through the blog! It seems as if it has been such a busy and exciting semester for the club, it's been great to still feel "in the loop" with what's going on. From funny videos at weekly meetings or updates on how the semester long projects have been going, we love to still feel included, even when we're 3,000 miles away. In addition, we could not be more proud of our members who attended the regional meeting! We are so lucky to have you to represent us! Reading about all of your accomplishments this semester has made us proud to be Skyhawks!

Slainte! (Irish for cheers!)



Emma Donovan and Sara Dunn at
University College in Dublin, Ireland



A Sample of Blog Photos from *Mu Omega From Around The World*



Check out our Mu Omega blog at:
<http://www.stonehillbap.org/#!/tumblr-feed/c1zhw>



Best Practices Regional Meeting: Part One

by Kate Morneault '16

When I first volunteered to participate in the *Best Practices* competition, I have to admit I had no idea what I was signing up for. It was the first BAP meeting of the spring semester and in fact, it was my first BAP meeting ever since I was studying abroad last semester. (This is exactly why our International Impact project was a crucial addition to our chapter!) We put a lot of time into the project the week before the competition. We organized the information, created a Prezi presentation, and practiced what we would say over and over again. We were extremely thankful to have a handful of different professors on campus take the time to listen to our presentation and critique it for us. Their advice was extremely useful. The week quickly flew by and before we knew it, we were on our way to D.C.

The first evening we were able to relax and rid our nerves with an enjoyable moment of sightseeing. We took plenty of photos of the Lincoln Memorial, White House, and Washington Memorial. The next day we participated in a variety of activities and took the opportunity to meet BAP students from other universities. We also made last minute adjustments to our presentations to ensure it was in tip-top shape. Before we knew it, it was Saturday morning, which meant it was show time. I would be lying if I said we weren't nervous. Since our chapter had never participated in the *Best Practices* competition, it was a bit unnerving, as we had no idea what to expect. Although, it was a relief knowing we did not have any expectations to live up to. We were encouraged to do our best and be pleased with the results no matter what.

During the presentation it was difficult to read the thoughts of the crowd. We got a few smiles and nods of approval but I was constantly wondering what was going through the judges' minds. Did they understand the importance of our project? Did they like the visuals and examples in our presentation? Were they bored? After our presentation was complete, we honestly didn't feel like we had won. We felt like we did a good job but we were relentlessly hard on ourselves. Remembering every little mistake - a few stutters here and there, flipping the slide too soon, the little things bothered us the most. I remember sitting in the airport listening to Professor Mullen on the phone with our BAP regional director. I tried to read his reaction hoping for the best. As he hung up the phone with a slight grin on his face, he announced the great results. To Milwaukee we go for the national competition! Overall, the experience was a great way to bring BAP students together and allowed us to work on skills, such as creating and delivering a professional presentation. Our confidence as future business professionals took a giant leap that day.

Best Practices Regional Meeting: Part Two

by Michaela Farrell '15

Spending three days in Washington D.C. for the Atlantic Coast Regional Meeting was both entertaining and worthwhile. The seven of us who attended were first greeted by the city's complicated Metro subway system. At the time, it was a little stressful jumping between maps and GPS directions on our cell phones. But once we settled into our seats twenty minutes later, the debacle proved to be a pretty humorous and a telling way of the adventure we would have embarked.

While it was still very clear in our minds what our purpose at the Conference was, we were able to go out and enjoy the fact that we were somewhere much different than Stonehill's campus. Our first night was spent sightseeing the monuments and hearing all about Professor Mullen's insight about the presidents and historic hotels as we walked through (and may have imposed on) the lit up streets of D.C. I think I can safely say we all had more laughs than we ever thought we would have strolling our nations' capitol. After an involved first day meeting with all of the Atlantic Coast BAP Chapters we treated ourselves to an Italian dinner at a modern and upscale restaurant across the street from the hotel, and then window shopped small art galleries that we stumbled upon during our stroll after dinner.

We still managed to make time for practice sessions to go over our presentations as the trip led up to the *Best Practices* Competition. These were extremely helpful in calming our nerves. Not to mention the added bonus that our hotel upgrade allowed us access to the "executive lounge" area where we enjoyed unlimited breakfast and drinks all day, which was especially helpful the morning of presentation day. In the end, our victory in the International Impact category was "icing on the cake" to the extremely enjoyable three days we spent at the Conference.

Negocios en español

by Julie Malone '15

This semester, Stonehill students were fortunate enough to be offered a new business class in a foreign language! Accounting Professor Virginia Cortijo created a course entitled "Business in Spanish" which teaches basic business concepts in the Spanish language. Professor Cortijo has worked extremely hard to make the course a success. As a student in the class, I can honestly say it is one of the best foreign language classes I have taken at Stonehill. We don't just read a book and memorize concepts. We are made to truly understand the material.



Non-business majors are allowed to take the course as well. They not only have to work through the language, but also learn business concepts that may not be familiar to them. This course bridges more than one discipline. Not only does it give Stonehill students an advantage in terms of foreign languages, it also gives them the confidence to have new experiences and make mistakes. Professor Cortijo always urges us that it is okay to make mistakes for it is in the mistakes that we truly learn.

Instruction and coursework like this class is a true testament of the quality of the professors at Stonehill and what sets a Stonehill education apart from many other colleges and universities. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have taken this course before graduation as I now have a different perspective of the business world through another language and culture.

Lights, Camera, Accounting! Take Two?

by Kayla Hanish '16

Some of our readers may remember an article in last semester's Corinthian regarding a PwC-funded video being created by a few members of our chapter. The article detailed the process behind making the video and was written while it was still being created. I am excited to finally be able to announce that the video has been posted on Stonehill's accounting major website page and can be found in the link below for all:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EL6OFb2cD-U

As we have discussed the process behind creating the video in a previous article, I can now talk about its overall impact on our program. I personally could not wait to watch the final product and wasn't disappointed when I did. I believe that the video truly shared our collective excitement about the accounting program at Stonehill. Through the finished piece Hannah, Adam, and I were able to provide prospective students with some valuable information regarding the major. These topics included the advantages to having a small class size, volunteer opportunities within the community, and the vast network offered to students from the Career Services Office.

Overall, our feelings about why we chose to come to Stonehill for our specific major were captured well by the camera. The video ended up being posted just before the first Skyhawk Welcome Day of the semester for prospective students who had been accepted for the 2019 graduating class. I personally got to speak to the accounting session on this day and was glad to have been able to show the video to the families who attended. I believe that the video will act as a useful tool in showing potential students why Stonehill can be the best choice for them if they are considering accounting as a major and future career.

It is obvious to us as students that the accounting program here is fantastic, and now with this video, we will be able to continually share our experiences with them for years to come.



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To learn more about our Mu Omega Chapter: www.stonehillbap.org