

THE CORINTHIAN COLUMN

STONEHILL COLLEGE MU OMEGA CHAPTER

OF BETA ALPHA PSI NEWSLETTER

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A Semester of Firsts and Continued Traditions

By Victoria Mello '16

The spring semester has proved to be a semester of firsts for the Mu Omega Chapter. Thanks to hard work and careful planning, the six students who participated in the Best Practices competition at the Regional Meeting traveled to Washington, DC and received a private tour of the White House, Capitol and the FBI. These six students represented Stonehill College well at the *BAP Regional Meeting* in Baltimore, earning the second place award in each of their competitions. Read on in the newsletter to learn more about this incredible experience.

Also for the first time, the Mu Omega chapter will be hosting a joint event with the Theta Gamma Chapter of Bentley University. We are very excited to spend an evening at Splittsville in Patriot's place with the Theta Gamma Chapter and look forward to building a lasting partnership.

The Mu Omega Chapter also formed its first official *Relay for Life* team, providing members and candidates with a memorable and meaningful community service opportunity. The event took place on April 15th and all participants had a wonderful experience! To learn more about the event, read Hannah's article on page 6!

This spring we were again faced with the challenge of having 50% of our candidate class venture overseas. Thanks to the "*Thoughts from Abroad*" blog created by the chapter last year, we were able to remain in touch with many candidates abroad that enabled the chapter to share experiences both on campus and across the globe. We were also proud to induct three new members into our Mu Omega Chapter this spring— Chris McNamara, Thomas Grant and Daniel Sullivan.

The Mu Omega Chapter will continue the traditions of hosting the Personal Finance Seminar and its annual community service day with PwC. This year we put a new spin on each of these events. This year's personal finance seminar was tailored to Stonehill's graduating senior class— emphasizing areas that seniors expressed the most concern over will including budgeting, student loan strategies, employee benefit plans and retirement planning. Looking to bring the impact of the event closer to Stonehill, we will be volunteering at the Stonehill Farm—which serves thousands of families in the Brockton and Easton area each season whose access to fresh, organic produce would have otherwise been restricted by social, economic and geographic obstacles.

As President of the Mu Omega chapter, I am proud of the progress we have made alongside our continued commitment to uphold the traditions established by those who came before us.

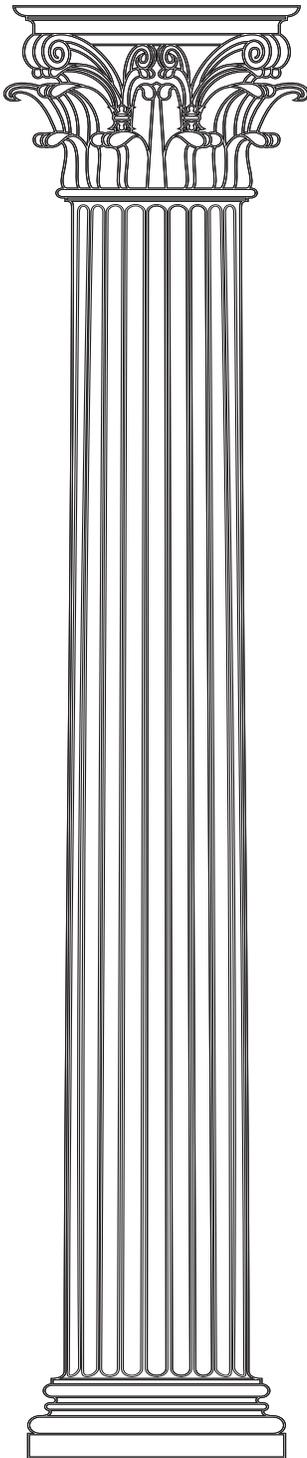


Beta Alpha Psi is a non-profit honorary and service organization for accounting and financial information students of AACSB- or EQUIS-accredited colleges and universities. The primary objective of Beta Alpha Psi is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business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





Experiences



Interning at Riverbank, Inc. - Some Career Insights Among Other Things

By Allyson DeFilippo '17

For the past two spring semesters, I have been interning at a small tax company that focuses on both personal and corporate tax returns. This company is located in Brockton, MA and is called Riverbank, Inc. Participating in this internship has not only taught me important information about accounting, but also what I would like to do with my career. I have become more interested in pursuing tax accounting in my future career. At Riverbank, Inc., the interns are an integral part of the team and that is what I love about it. There are currently six interns assisting the owner, and out of those six, five are Stonehill students. It is a great opportunity to be in a work environment with my peers!

Whether I am answering the phone, putting together tax documents, or working on simple tax returns, I am always busy and learning something new. The most rewarding moment of my time spent at Riverbank was when my boss was extremely impressed with my organization and timeliness putting together an income statement for a corporate client. My boss' compliment confirmed my confidence in the education I've received at Stonehill. I can honestly say that Stonehill's accounting classes have fully prepared me to be able to handle the workload given to me at my internship. I have grown so much as a person and have become more confident in my accounting abilities since taking on the challenge of an internship. I really think participating in an internship during a student's time at Stonehill is an extremely rewarding experience! Interning offers students like me the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally in a real work environment!

A Meeting in the West Wing

By Alexandra Esposito '17

This semester, I traveled with five other students from the Mu Omega chapter to the BAP Atlantic Coast regional meeting in Baltimore, MD. As a reward for presenting for the *Best Practices Competition*, we spent a day in Washington, DC. After being abroad in the fall, this was definitely a highlight of my first real semester with BAP.

In Washington, we started the day off at the FBI Headquarters where we toured around various displays within the building and learned about everything from the start of FBI's *Most Wanted* list to business ethical scandals like Enron from the FBI's perspective. We then headed over to the Capital Building, where we started in the Cannon House and had the chance to sit in Congressman Keating's office and tour around the Capital with one of his interns.

While we really enjoyed our morning in Washington DC, the highlight was definitely the meeting we had with Stonehill Alum David Simas, Assistant to President Obama and Director of the Office of Political Strategy and Outreach. We met him in his office in the West Wing of the White House. There, Mr. Simas was extremely open and friendly with our chapter's members. He told us a lot about what it's like to work directly beside President Obama, including all the reasons he loves his job. He offered us a lot of advice, too. I remember him saying "treat those on their way up well, because you'll need them if you're ever on your way down".

The next day, I went on to present for *Best Practices on Leadership and Management* with Whitney Wemett '16 and Christopher McNamara '16. It was really interesting gaining advice from someone in a role of leadership for our country before that presentation. Mr. Simas told us his workdays are long (typically from 6:30am to 9:30pm Monday-Saturday and 6:30am-1pm on Sundays), but I noticed written on the white board in his office the phrase, "remember who you are and what you stand for". Going into a career in public accounting, I realize my workdays may be long too, especially during busy season. I'll always remember that short phrase I saw on his white board because there's more to life than just the work in front of us. I think I can speak for all the members and candidates in attendance that day- we will never forget our meeting in the West Wing of the White House!!



Gaining New Perspectives Abroad

Studying In Dublin, Ireland For A Semester

By Kimberly Purisky '17



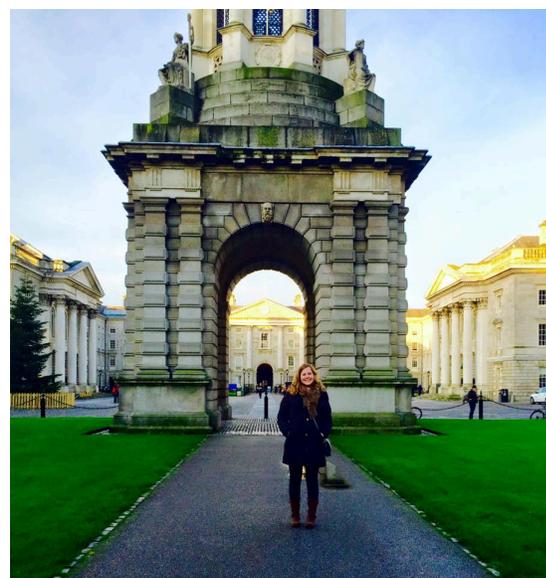
TRINITY
COLLEGE
DUBLIN

Everything that they tell you about going abroad is true- it will be the best time of your life. My time living in Dublin, Ireland is still not over, but I've already learned so much through my experiences.

I am studying at Trinity College, which has been a respected academic institution since 1592. Living in a dorm on campus, I feel as if I am walking through the history of Ireland. Trinity is a university right in the middle of the city of Dublin and has been a witness to centuries of rebellions and uprisings by the Irish folk. Right now is the best time to be in Dublin because there have been many celebrations for the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising – an event heralded as the start of the rebellion that brought Ireland its independence from Great Britain.

During this time abroad, I decided to take classes to learn more about the country I am living in, so I am taking a History of Ireland class and an Irish Language and Literature class. These classes are set up differently from the business classes I am used to taking at Stonehill. I'm experiencing firsthand what it's like to learn in huge lecture halls with upwards of 50 students from all around the world. Even though I have learned so much during the lectures, I think the most important thing I've learned so far are the differences in cultures. In Ireland, everything is more laid back, which seems like it would be a good thing. But I have learned that in the States we are taught to abide by deadlines, be on time, and have everything organized. In my first week at Trinity I didn't know what classes I was enrolled in, and one week away from the end of lectures I didn't know when my finals were. These are differences in lifestyles that are driving me crazy, but are really important to know for the future when I am working with people from different parts of the world.

Living abroad has given me the chance to step far out of my comfort zone and try to find my way in a different city. I definitely recommend going abroad to everyone, which I know is something people have heard thousands of times. It is an experience that means so much and I know that when I return I will realize I learned so much more than I thought.



Studying In Scotland- Tis a Wee Bit Fun!

By Michelle Vonick '17



Study abroad always seemed like a distant experience. Even when I was starting to consider different programs, the concept that I was going to be in a foreign city for five months didn't actually hit me until I was here. But now I can finally testify to why everyone says it's one of the best experiences of their life.

I am currently a junior at Stonehill College pursuing a major in Accounting. Since I was a child, I always imagined that I would study abroad in Italy (mainly because I *love* pasta), but somehow I ended up at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; a country known for whiskey, haggis, kilts, and bagpipes. While I wouldn't have foreseen this, I couldn't be happier with my choice. Also, for the Harry Potter fans out there, this is the real deal. Every street looks like it was taken out of a Harry Potter movie, which makes sense since J.K. Rowling got much inspiration from Edinburgh while writing here.

While I am not taking any accounting classes abroad, I am taking courses in the business realm including *Operations Strategy*, *Human Resource Management*, and *International Business*. Taking these courses abroad has been challenging, thought provoking, and eye opening. The Scottish school system has been one of the most difficult and dramatic adjustments. My grades are based on one paper and one exam. This makes me actually miss quizzes and small assignments (never thought I would say that), but it is a lot of pressure to have the final be 50% to 70% of your grade. While the system is difficult, taking business courses in Scotland has also been a wonderful experience and is one that I foresee assisting me in my future career. I have had the opportunity to learn about how business is conducted from the viewpoint of many cultures. The University of Edinburgh is a very diverse school. For example, one of my tutorials with nine students had members from Egypt, Scotland, England, Norway, Japan, China, Germany, and the United States. I am not just learning about the Scottish (in fact I hear more British accents than Scottish ones), but I am learning about cultures from all over the world. My studies have been memorable, but let's not forget the people I have met and places that I have traveled to.

Honestly, travel is one of the main reasons that I am abroad. I love to travel; I love to experience new places; and I *love* to experience new food (one can never forget the food). Thus far I have traveled many places around Scotland including the Scottish Highlands, Glencoe, Loch Ness, and St. Andrews. Besides Scotland, I have visited Dublin (to see Kim, a fellow BAP member) and Copenhagen. My semester also includes traveling to the UK, including Manchester for a soccer game, Liverpool to release my inner Beatles fan, and the Lake District to bring out my outdoorsy side. I'll also be in Lisbon and Barcelona and am in the process of planning more trips. This is a lot more than I

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....Studying In Scotland (continued)

ever imagined traveling, but I am grateful for every bit of it.

While I love to travel, coming back to Edinburgh is now comforting. It is my new home for the semester and I think that some part of me will always call it a home. It is where I have met some of my best friends, it is where I have traveled and become a more independent and resilient person, and it is where I have learned about culture and people in ways that can't be written on paper. I will forever cherish this city and the memories that I am making here. As the Scottish might say, tis been a wee bit a fun.



Mu Omega Walking for a Cure

By Hannah Poist '16

Over the past few years, we have had many of our BAP members and candidates volunteer at Stonehill College's Relay for Life event for the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society where the donated money goes towards cancer research, survivor support programs, and transportation for patients to and from treatment. The American Cancer Society also helps patients receive affordable and comfortable accommodations at Hope Lodges around the country. It also provides travel to patients traveling far from home to get the best-needed treatment. The Relay for Life event is a night full of walking, remembering those who we have lost due to cancer, and raising cancer awareness and prevention. This year, we decided to make our own Beta Alpha Psi team to represent our honor society and our loved ones that we have lost due to cancer. Coming together and participating with our community is highly important and there was a lot of excitement leading up to the event!

The event took place on April 15th from 4:00pm to 4:00am on campus, where we walked and fundraised with our peers and our community to reach Stonehill College's goal of \$50,000. The night consisted of survivor speakers, a luminaria ceremony, cancer awareness games, and a lot of walking! Our BAP members and candidates appreciated the night coming together as a chapter to support an important cause. Leading up to the event, our team alone was able to raise \$1,595 meeting our goal of \$1,500. This put us in the top 10 fundraising teams, out of the 38 teams that participated. Stonehill also reached its goal of raising over \$52,000. It was a successful night for the college and the community as we continued the fight against this awful disease. Our chapter had an emotional and impactful night at Relay for Life and look forward to continuing the tradition of the Mu Omega team again next year.



A Recap of the 2016 Atlantic Coast BAP Regional Conference

By Christopher McNamara '16

This semester four members and two candidates represented the Mu Omega chapter at the regional conference in Baltimore, Maryland on March 18th and 19th. Included in this conference was the *Best Practices Competition*, an event sponsored by Deloitte for chapters to compete in presentations on three chosen categories. One team consisting of myself, Whitney Wemett '16 and Alexandra Esposito '17, competed in the "Leadership and Management" category, while Kenneth Gillpatrick '16, Anthony Cavazza '16, and Kayla McNulty '17 competed in the "Good or Great" category.

Both teams entered into the competition with abstracts, ten of which were chosen to present at the conference. After being selected and successfully presenting in Baltimore, we are happy to report that both teams placed second for their categories!

Outside of the competition, I can honestly say that this was an extremely beneficial experience for me as a member of the Mu Omega chapter and I highly recommend it to other candidates and members. The conference is split into two days and while the competition requires time and effort, the feeling of accomplishment afterwards is well worth it. Furthermore, it is a great way for our chapter to get the word out to the organization as a whole about all the great things we do. On Saturday we have a few choices of sessions to attend, run by a variety of professionals in the field of accounting. I personally attended the Beta Alpha Psi Alumni Panel and a session on Hiring and Outlook for Accounting, Finance and Information Systems. It was great to hear from alumni of the organization who are going through their first busy seasons and were in our shoes just a few years ago. They passed along great advice for studying for the CPA exam and being professional as an intern and associate at a Big Four firm. I also really enjoyed hearing various statistics that show the promising future of the profession I'm interested in. The speaker was a regional president for Robert Half International, a specialized recruiting firm.

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...A Recap (continued)

The highlight of the conference for me was the keynote speech from Tom Hood, one of the accounting profession's most influential people. His main point to use can be summed up in a quote he passed along to us- "You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf". While there may not be any literal waves we must surf on in our careers, our generation is beginning careers during a time of exponential change, particularly with the increasing discoveries and uses of technology in the business world. Mr. Hood advised us to embrace and anticipate this digital age. When entering this ever-changing business landscape, we must all elevate ourselves and our skills, even though there may be an increase in automation of accounting jobs.

To anyone interested in attending a BAP regional or annual conference, my advice to you is to go for it! It is an awesome networking and professional development opportunity that you're sure to get a lot out of. I sure did!



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

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