Update from Dean Sharpe

Students, Parents, and Members of the Georgetown McDonough Community,

Our semester is in full swing and the fall foliage around campus is spectacular. We recently hosted parents at Georgetown for Parent and Family Weekend and the enthusiasm among those who returned to campus was energizing.

We thank the faculty members who donated their time to speak with parents and students about our Global Business Experience in Barcelona and Brussels, our growing opportunities for students to study real estate with the Steers Center for Global Real Estate, and our vibrant Georgetown Entrepreneurship Initiative. We continue to expand our global opportunities and currently are accepting applications from students for our Global Business Fellows Program, which provides a series of coursework in business, international affairs, and economics.

One year ago, we launched the McDonough Office of Professional Development to provide programming, networking opportunities, and individual guidance for Georgetown McDonough undergraduates. These efforts have resulted in numerous partnerships with corporations for internships and full-time jobs for our students in all industries.

Please read more about this exciting development in this newsletter. It takes a dedicated team to deliver a transformative experience for our undergraduates, so we thank the faculty, alumni, and parents who continue to support our programs.

Warm Regards,
Norean R. Sharpe, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean
Director of Undergraduate Programs
Office of Professional Development Offers Industry Coaching Services

Since the fall of 2014, the Georgetown McDonough Office of Professional Development has provided undergraduate business students career services, including one-on-one coaching, career treks, and workshops covering a variety of career-related topics. This year, one additional service is being added to the menu: industry-specific career coaching.

The office has hired four industry experts to offer one-on-one coaching to students interested in each coach’s respective field, including financial services, product marketing, advertising, and consulting. Coaches all have extensive experience in coaching at both the undergraduate and MBA levels.

“I am thrilled to offer our students this additional service,” stated Rebecca Cassidy, director of the Office of Professional Development. “Students can now spend time with experts in their area of industry interest to learn about the career paths that are available, how to create an industry-specific resume, and how to master the questions they may be asked in an interview. It will help our students develop into stronger candidates.”

Internship Highlights: GE Asset Management

This summer, four Georgetown McDonough students were selected from a pool of 44 sophomores who applied to participate in the first GE Asset Management (GEAM) internship program. Students then spent the summer at GE Asset Management’s headquarters in Stamford, Conn., where they were provided housing and worked alongside other interns and practitioners at the firm.

“GEAM was a great experience; GE Asset Management really took care of the interns,” said Zach Kelly, B’17. “Our housing was fantastic and we were exposed to nearly all functions of the business in addition to our groups. I was lucky enough to be put on the trading floor and be given a Bloomberg terminal to work with. I truly believe the Fixed Income Research team valued my work, and that I left deliverables that will help them give accurate ratings for securities.”

“Programs such as GEAM’s internship for sophomores are a wonderful way to give our younger students experience in highly competitive fields,” said Rebecca Cassidy, director of the Office of Professional Development in the Georgetown McDonough Undergraduate Program. “A total of 94 percent of our students participate in internships such as this before graduation, and as a result, students are well-prepared for the workforce upon graduation.”

Georgetown McDonough First Years Get A Smart Start

This fall marks the fourth running of Georgetown McDonough’s Smart Start program, thanks to a generous grant from PwC. Smart Start supports the retention and success of underrepresented minority students via workshops, panels, and events designed to equip a diverse pool of leaders with the tools for academic, personal, and professional success. Aimed primarily at first-years, students take part in events that provide information on co- and extra-curricular opportunities, career development, leadership, entrepreneurship, and study abroad opportunities.

“The one-on-one guidance that students receive from PwC professionals, as well as Georgetown faculty, staff, and alumni pushes first- and second-year program participants beyond their limits to give them a jump start on internship opportunities and specialized recruitment programs,” said Patricia Grant, associate dean and Georgetown director of the Smart Start program. “In fact, we already can see its legacy and long-lasting impact; three Smart Start alumni will return to Georgetown McDonough as PwC mentors and corporate ambassadors next fall.”

The grant is part of the PwC INQuires program, which has provided 52 universities across the United States with funding to support diversity initiatives and applied research projects, as well as to inform colleges and universities about updates and issues in the accounting profession. However, Georgetown McDonough’s unique combination of classroom experience with professional development has created a model that PwC is now implementing at universities across the country.
Summer Global Social Internship Program Expands

For the previous two summers, Georgetown McDonough students spent 5 to 10 weeks in Fabretto’s Sistema de Aprendizaje Tutorial (Tutorial Learning System, also known as SAT) program in Nicaragua to help local high school students create successful business plans and develop realistic perspectives to produce profitable organizations for the student cooperative. This year, the Georgetown McDonough Undergraduate Program Office has expanded the program, sponsoring 12 students to work in non-profit internships in Nicaragua, Peru, Costa Rica, India, and China.

“In Nicaragua, I was afforded the opportunity to work for an organization with a mission to give back and improve the world,” said Brittany Maupin, B’18. “The experience was gratifying and enlightening. When considering developing countries, we far too frequently assume that lacking the material objects upon which we fascinate is devastating. I quickly learned that what Nicaraguans may lack financially, they more than compensate for with their love, joy, and generosity.”

While the program has expanded significantly this year, the program hopes to continue to grow in the summer of 2016, partnering with the Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya to help local entrepreneurs secure micro-financing to start their own businesses.

Student Group News: GUSIF Volunteers at SOME

This past spring, several Georgetown University Student Investment Fund (GUSIF) members volunteered at SOME (So Others Might Eat). SOME was founded in 1970 by Father Horace McKenna, a Jesuit priest, as an organization dedicated to feeding the District of Columbia’s homeless population. After several years, SOME expanded from a small soup kitchen into an organization that provides a variety of support and services to D.C.’s poor, including certification and work training through its Center for Employment Training (CET).

In addition to learning one of two new skill sets – medical administration assistant training or building maintenance and service technician training – program participants are taught many of the professional skills college students take for granted; such as interviewing, writing resumes and cover letters, and managing time and projects. Georgetown McDonough students provided SOME CET participants help with these skills, focusing mainly on updating resumes and cover letters.

GUSIF students enjoyed the project and felt they were able make an impact using the professional skills gained in the McDonough School of Business and in GUSIF. The organization looks forward to continuing this service in future semesters.

Global Programming Expands with Hong Kong Study Abroad

The summer of 2015 marked the inaugural offering of the program, Strategic Management: An Asian Perspective, a study abroad program that took 24 students to Hong Kong for five weeks. Students took classes in strategic management and intercultural communications, and had the opportunity to participate in several company visits, including trips to Estée Lauder’s Asian headquarters as well as to Colgate-Palmolive’s Hong Kong offices.

The students had a truly immersive and expansive experience,” said Monija Amani, Senior Assistant Dean and director of the program. “Not only did students earn academic credit towards graduation, but studied alongside Chinese students, immersed themselves in Chinese culture and came away with new friendships. We look forward to many more successful summers in Hong Kong.”