



FELLOWS NEWS

February 2015

New and Noteworthy

The 2014 Symposium on Business Leadership & Ethics weekend took place November 6-8 at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Many thanks to Dean Sunil Kumar, Deputy Dean Stacey Kole, and Associate Dean Ann Harvilla for helping us put together a memorable weekend. Deepest appreciation, as well, to **Frank Sasso** ('11), our intrepid Symposium master of ceremonies, who gracefully kept us on track all weekend.

One of the highlights of this year's event was reminiscences about Bill McGowan by John Worthington, Bill's legal counsel at MCI and current McGowan Fund board member, and Bill Conway, co-founder and managing director of the Carlyle Group, who also worked closely with Bill. Together they drew a vivid portrait of Bill's leadership style, respect for his employees, and approach to business that was both memorable and inspiring.



Sue Gin McGowan's absence was keenly felt throughout the weekend. She would have been extremely proud of the exceptional attendance by our alumni (60%) and our wonderful new Fellows class. Fellows have collectively pledged 796 hours of service this year in her honor.

Brigid Johnson ('14) and **Adam Wenneker** ('14) are the inaugural recipients of the Fund's new Above and Beyond award, given to Fellows or alumni that exceed all expectations in their service to their class or the program. The awards were presented at the closing event of the 2014 Symposium in Chicago. Brigid and Adam invested many, many hours in leading their classmates through the thicket of the American Heart Association group project which ended as an unqualified success. Congratulations to them!

Symposium 2015 will held at Columbia Business School in New York City, date to be announced.



Class of 2015: (Top row) Leandro Brufman, Rhett Braunschweig, Alex Munns, Mike Cacchio, Jason Sierra (Front row) John Mahler, Amanda Olar, Yumna Cheema, Julianne Bruno, Dave Houlihan.

While most alumni (and Fellows!) were still snoozing, the Fellows Alumni Committee met bright and early Sunday morning of Symposium weekend to discuss next steps for this group. Committee members include **Kaitlyn Caughlin** ('12), **Brendan Hickey** ('12), **Liana Humphrey** ('11), **Eva Liu** ('13), **Tori Lord** ('14), **Molly White** ('13), plus one member yet to be added.

With the community growing ever larger, it was decided that a bit more organization was needed. After discussion during November and December, the Committee passed a set of bylaws which, among other things, call for several subcommittees as well as a chair and vice chair. **Liana Humphrey** ('11) was elected chair and **Eva Liu** ('13) vice chair, each for a two-year term. The Subcommittees and their members are: *Local Events*: **Dave Adelman** ('11) and **Molly White** ('13); *Alumni Reunion*: **Kaitlyn Caughlin** ('12) and **Brendan Hickey** ('12); and *Symposium*: **Tori Lord** ('14), **Frank Sasso** ('11), **Adam Wenneker** ('14). There is still one opening each on the Reunion and Local Events Subcommittees. Thanks to all for your service and wonderful energy! Look for the bylaws on the Facebook page.

Come April 16, the **Class of 2015** will be gathering in the Big Easy for their working retreat to tie up loose ends on their AHA project. An earlier meetup took place in Washington DC at the end of January, barely missing the monster east-coast snow storm. Many thanks to **Dave Houlihan** for securing meeting space in Washington, **Yumna Cheema** and **Alex Munns** for serving as overall project coordinators, and to the rest of the class for all their efforts!



Hard at work at Georgetown U!



The **2015 Alumni Reunion** is scheduled for July 30 to August 2 in Rocky Mountain National Park, near Denver. There's beautiful scenery and hiking galore, as well as more urban pursuits in Denver, only a short drive away. Whether you're single or bringing a family, you'll find something fun to do in the company of your McGowan colleagues. There's still time to make a reservation! Go to the Fellows Facebook page or contact a member of the Alumni Committee.



Northern California alumni meet for dinner.

Thanks to all who participated in the 2014 Symposium and New Fellow Onboarding Survey. We had an unprecedented 85% response rate and information gleaned will guide planning for future events. Two interesting highlights:

- The top three reasons alumni return to the Symposium each year are that they want to 1) see alumni colleagues; 2) support the Fellows program; and 3) meet and support new Fellows.
- 99% of respondents feel extremely connected to Fellows in their class and 76% feel connected or very connected to Fellows not in their class.

The McGowan Fellows Family is expanding at quite a clip! **Mukund Kulashekaran** ('11) and his wife Sheeba have new twins, son Aarav and daughter Aaria, born in early October. **Rob Spies** '12) and his wife Cassandra welcomed Clara Jane into their family on October 12. **Kaitlyn Caughlin** ('12) and her husband, Ryan Oney, have a new daughter, Emily Jane, born December 6. Slated for a spring arrival is the offspring of **Dave Adelman** ('11) and his wife, Melissa.



Clara Jane Spies and proud parents.



Aarav and Aaria Kulashekaran with Dad ('11).



Emily Jane Oney and mom Kaitlyn Caughlin ('12).

Wedding bells: Congratulations to **Karen Olson** ('13), who married Casey Diehl in November, with **Danielle Sewell** ('13) in attendance; **Nik Socratous** ('13), whose new better half as of last summer is Alexandra Lomakina; and **Tom Woodard** ('12) who just became engaged. McGowan staff member **Linda Heath** and her fiancé Ted Quesada who are slated for October 2015 nuptials.

McGowan Family News

Grace McGowan, age 15 and daughter of **Brian** and **Shelly**, has formed a student-led organization called *Geaux Haiti*. The group raises money to help Haitian orphans and travel on occasion to Haiti to see the results of their efforts. They also try to raise general awareness about Haiti's most pressing issues. Funds are administered through the Global Orphan Project.

Grace grew up hearing about the power of Haiti and experiences there that were life-changing. She took her first trip there in 2013 and offered this [excerpted] report:

"I, along with five of my friends and some of their parents, traveled to Port-au-Prince with the Global Orphan Project. We visited four orphanages and spent time playing with the kids. It was amazing to see how they just wanted someone to play with. Even though the orphans spoke Creole, language wasn't a barrier like I had assumed it would be. We didn't have to use words to communicate that we wanted to bring joy into someone else's life and we knew they wanted to bring happiness into ours. The Haitian people we met didn't have many material possessions, but they had joy, and they shared it with us all the time. They wanted to share everything they had with us."

But there's more to the story. Before embarking on her trip, Grace decided to make one last big fundraising push and organized a talent show. Her goal was \$1,000, enough to buy 100 chickens for the orphanages she was due to visit. The show was a tremendous success, with the goal surpassed many times over. The \$8,000 raised was enough to buy 800 chickens and, with each chicken providing

ten meals, Grace and her friends were able to contribute 8,000 meals to Haitian orphans.

Since then, Grace has put together other very successful fundraisers and made her second trip to Haiti in May 2014. She traveled with 14 others, including seven students, and visited the orphanages as well as two small businesses that employ Haitians at a fair wage, one even offering onsite daycare. She explains: "Seeing Paula Cole's [business] and Papillion gave everyone in my group a glimpse of what Haiti's future can be. It's been an incredible privilege to fundraise and go to Haiti. I can't wait to see what comes next."

Neither can we!



Grace (orange dress) and friends in Haiti.

From Executive Director's Desk



Greetings from the cold and windy city! I am delighted to share a few recent McGowan Fund developments.

As you are aware, Board President Sue Ling Gin-McGowan passed away suddenly on September 26, 2014. Sue functioned as the board chair, president and treasurer for several years, and had not fully addressed next generation leadership for the Fund.

It is often the case with founders and first generation leadership in family foundations that succession planning is one of the most difficult

governance topics to confront. Over the next four months, an Ad-Hoc governance committee lead by myself and John Worthington was established and convened frequently to discuss various governance models and which would work best for the organization. We discussed leadership roles and responsibilities, and the time commitment that would be required for each. One member from each family branch was represented on the Committee, and all topics were then discussed within the family branches. This collaborative work was undertaken to prepare the Board for an election and smooth transition at the annual Board Strategy Retreat in February.

With that, I could not be more pleased to announce the new leadership teams! Board Members elected include: Marianne Rosica Brand, Sherilyn Kingsbury, Gert McGowan, Mary Swartz, and John Worthington. Board Officers elected are: Bill McGowan, Chair; Leo McGowan, President; Brian McGowan, Treasurer; and Joe Rosica, Secretary.

While the circumstances leading up to this significant change continue to be very sad for us, it is also an exciting time. The newly elected officers and members are deeply committed to the work of the Fund, furthering the organization's efforts toward impactful and sustainable grantmaking – and suitable governance for generations to come.

In grantmaking news, our largest project, *Healthy Way to Grow* in partnership with The American Heart Association, has received the first-year formal evaluation. The program was designed as a technical assistance program for early childcare centers in our low-income neighborhoods to prevent and/or reduce early childhood obesity. The first year report has reflected very positive changes within the childcare settings and also within families. Our childcare centers have changed meals and snacks for the children from cookies, cupcakes and juice to healthy, non-sugary foods and drinks; balanced screen-time with physical activity, and provided education sessions for enhanced parental engagement. We continue to explore the challenges in the program, including childcare center director and staff turn-over, food insecurity within the families, and safety within

neighborhoods for outdoor family activities. These are not easy problems to solve, but we are encouraged by the positive year-one results and are committed to a long-term approach.

We are also busy with efforts to leverage our funding. One of the most fun and exciting things we have the opportunity to engage in is enlarging our programs beyond our fiscal and geographical limitations. Currently, the AHA's Healthy Way to Grow program is being reviewed by other funders as a result of our hosting small dinners and site visits to speak on the topic of early childhood obesity.

Numerous foundations and private donors across the country are contributing millions toward obesity reduction and prevention efforts, and I am encouraged that the trajectory of our national obesity epidemic will continue to trend positively.

Remember the Ethics Curriculum developed by the McGowan Fellows classes of 2011, '12, and '13? We continue to work on this project in partnership with Aurora University. A Guide has been developed and we are in discussions around developing a full curriculum. Potential applications could include adoption into AU's Stem out-of-school program for four area public schools, or into AU's charter school. They are also exploring whether this possible curriculum could be adopted into either their Master's level or Doctoral level coursework. Simultaneously, we are studying the feasibility of distribution to various youth clubs across the country.

Lastly, I'd like to close with a note of thanks to all alumni and Fellows who continue to support the McGowan Fellows program by serving on committees, thinking about what the future for the program could be, planning the summer reunion, helping with the symposium, and for the wonderful photos and notes on your daily lives that you share with us!

Diana Spencer

Out and About

Meet the New Fellows!

Rhett Braunschweig

*Northwestern University
Kellogg School of Management*



Prior to starting my MBA program, I worked for Robert W. Baird & Co., a middle market investment bank in Milwaukee. I primarily worked on mergers and acquisitions and capital raises for

public companies and private equity- and family-owned businesses. I returned to Baird this summer in a much different role: strategy for the firm's sales and trading, venture capital and wealth management groups. In this role, I was able to learn about Baird's different businesses, how they interact and complement one another, and how they fit with the firm's broader strategy. It was also a great way to get to know people across the company.

During my time at Kellogg I have recognized that I enjoy contemplating the longer term possibilities for a firm within a market and setting a strategy to take advantage of the opportunities a firm faces. I want to be in a position to influence strategy and execution over time and also have impact over a larger group of people. This requires establishing credibility through leadership by example, mentorship and coaching, and eventually the ability to set the vision for a firm and get the full team working towards that vision. There are a lot of "deal people" in investment banking who are mostly concerned with the short term and the next deal. While I appreciate the importance of each advisory engagement's role in achieving the overall goal, I feel I can have more impact setting the strategy and structuring a team to execute it. I'm confident I'll have the opportunity to do this at Baird and am excited about returning this summer as a Senior Associate in the firm's banking group in Chicago.

I also feel very strongly about the role financial services play in the broader economy and the moral responsibility leaders of financial firms have to a broader group of stakeholders – their employees, communities, and the markets they affect each day. I'm excited about the prospects of being an ethical steward of the trust and responsibility clients place in us but also the trust of these broader stakeholders.

At school and home, I have recently pared back my class load so I can spend more time getting to know my classmates and engage more broadly with the Kellogg community outside of the classroom. This includes exploring and trying many of the new restaurants that have opened in Evanston in recent months! I'm also looking forward to a trip to New Zealand and Australia in March and a Private Equity and Venture Capital conference in mid-April that I am helping put together. Finally, I'm training for a triathlon with Kellogg classmates in May here in Illinois – and hope to improve upon my time from last year. All this and searching for a home in Chicago have me quite busy!

I still hope to find some R&R between graduation in June and starting my job at Baird in July or August. On tap are my third annual father-son golf trip (looking at Oregon this year) and hopefully a trip to either Southeast Asia or Africa.



My family at the Wisconsin-Iowa Game in November. (I went to Wisconsin, my brother and sister went to Iowa.)



Post Wisconsin-Iowa game with my twin brother Kyle, who also lives in Chicago.

Leandro Brufman

*University of Chicago
Chicago Booth*



I'm pursuing a career in investment banking so I decided to spend my summer internship at Credit Suisse in London, with the leveraged finance and sponsors team.

This team provides origination, structuring, and execution of high-yield financings and leveraged buyouts.

I like investment banking because of the dynamic, fast-paced work environment, and this particular team because it sits at the intersection of a purely advisory role and a purely capital markets role. Working with people who are so highly respected and good at what they do was also something I really enjoyed. Being in London during the Soccer World Cup was an additional benefit – except when Argentina lost the final against Germany! I will be going back to Credit Suisse immediately after graduation to start my new job – I love punishment! In five years or so I hope to transition to the buy-side.

I'm really enjoying my classes this term and am also busy advising several first year students who want to pursue careers in investment banking in London: what the process of applying for a job is like, what they can expect, interview prep. I am also trying to keep my poker skills in shape with several classmates and am thinking of going to Barcelona over spring break. There's lots to explore there and I love the food. Of course, I will miss the great weather in Chicago!



Introducing my parents to Chicago jazz!



In Cartagena, Colombia with friends over Spring Break.



Soccer in my hometown of Bahia Blanca, Argentina.

Julianne Bruno

*University of Pennsylvania
Wharton School*



I really enjoyed my summer internship at Becton Dickinson, a medical device firm in Franklin Lakes, NJ, where I worked on the Global Health team. My projects involved building business cases

for two devices that could treat jaundice and measure oxygenation in infants. It was a pretty unusual vantage point working with an innovative team that is pursuing new products in the construct of a hundred-year-old company.

Part of the internship involved traveling to South Africa and Malawi. I visited clinics and non-profits to interview staff and see what the needs were and how our products might help. It was a deeply humbling experience and reminded me again of all the opportunities and experiences I have had that I never thought possible.

I have accepted a position at McKinsey and Company in Silicon Valley where I will work on social impact and health care projects. I want to build up knowledge and expertise in these areas so that I can eventually work across sectors. My chief interest is in the high maternal and newborn mortality rates in the developing world. In my wildest dreams, I hope to help drive these numbers down. We have the knowledge and solutions in this country so it's a matter of trying to find viable applications for more impoverished countries.

It's been pretty busy around our house for most of the year: my husband Ashwin is also a second year MBA student at Wharton! We had a wonderful three-week vacation over the holidays, traveling to six countries, and in June we'll be going to Machu Picchu with my in-laws, just after graduation. I'm also really looking forward to working with the Lipman Family Prize again this year at Wharton. The Prize awards \$125,000 to an organization in the social sector that is innovatively tackling a

global scale problem. Besides coordinating the selection process, I'll be traveling to work on a consulting project for one of the prize finalists.

I'm not sure yet when I will begin my new job but we will probably move out to California in August. Between then and graduation, we'll be spending some serious time near Penn Yan, NY at my in-laws lake house.



My new friend: a 62-year old, blind elephant named Mercey at a sanctuary outside Chiang Mai, Thailand.



My husband Ashwin and me at Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon, Myanmar.



Ashwin, me, and two friends from Wharton on a paddle boat in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam.

Mike Cacchio

*Dartmouth College
Tuck School of Business*



Because I'm a dual degree student in business and public health, my summer was pretty short – courses for public health start in late July. I did spend four weeks in Cape Town, South Africa,

where I took a “crash” course in coding and then joined a three-person team that built a prototype web app to identify health resource needs in the Western Cape region of South Africa. I also worked with an executive search firm where I was compiling data to determine trends in corporate governance including board composition, salary, turnover, and more.

When I first arrived at Tuck I was interested in entrepreneurship. I've realized that while I will most likely not be the creator of a new product or service in the near-term, I'm very interested in filling in the knowledge gap between the product and the user in the area of public health, such as helping users understand what is involved in technology and how things fit together and why. It's an interface role.

I'm really excited about my capstone project and internship in public health for my “other” degree. The internship will be at Blue Cross Blue Shield where I will look at their members' overall experience. My capstone will involve qualitative research toward the goal of identifying why people make the purchasing choices they do when buying health insurance on Vermont Health Connect (the health insurance exchange in the state). I'm hopeful the paper will be interesting to a number of organizations, as there's a growing trend among companies – insurance and otherwise – to establish programs that encourage good health. The trick is to find out exactly what incentivizes people to participate in these programs and ultimately take better care of their own health.

On the career front, I recently accepted a consulting position as a generalist at Bain in

Boston which has a strong retail/consumer practice. With a long-term view on healthcare, I believe there's a lot to be learned from other industries. Retail, in particular, puts a lot of energy into looking at the consumer experience – which is exactly what I want to do in healthcare.

Over the past couple months, I've been pretty busy putting together the healthcare panel for Tuck's annual Business and Society Conference which takes place at the end of February. Among the topics we'll look at is how healthcare service providers can “do well by doing good.” Then it's on to maple syrup time (I make my own!) and catching up on some fishing while I'm still up here in the woods of New Hampshire and Vermont.

This summer I'm planning a trip to Cambodia or Machu Picchu and a fishing trip with my Dad to celebrate his 70th birthday, probably to Montana. After that I have the daunting task of finding a place to live in Boston before returning to the working world!



Maple syrup time!



Relaxing with my girlfriend Louisa.

Yumna Cheema

*Columbia University
Columbia Business School*



I had a terrific time last summer during my internship at Citibank. I worked in mergers and acquisitions and was on the team that put together a \$4.3 billion clean energy acquisition deal between NextEra

Energy and Hawaiian Electric Industries. The hours were just crazy but I loved the people and the work – it’s exactly what I want to do. Being in the center of this deal – I did most of the valuation work! – was a thrill and so energizing. I really enjoyed seeing the formal announcement of the acquisition last December.

I’m looking forward to a career in banking, specifically in mergers and acquisitions. I’ve accepted a position with Citibank where I interned this summer and where I worked before business school. I have to decide on a specialty area in a few years, such as energy or media, but I’m not sure yet what that will be. I plan on following a traditional career path and hope to eventually reach the director level – very few women are in banking and even fewer in mergers and acquisitions.

I’m having a lot of fun this term with a couple of week-long mini courses which run from 9 to 5 each day. I just finished one in consumer finance – mortgages and so forth – and another called “Leading Others from Inside Out” with Professor Wadwa who is internationally known in leadership. This gives me more free time during the rest of the term. I just got back from a trip to Pakistan where I did some primary research for a case concerning micro-credit, financial inclusion, and the unbanked that will be used in Columbia classes once completed. I’m also getting ready for a study trip to Italy during my upcoming spring break. I’ll be traveling with 40 other MBA students from Columbia and we will visit companies with a food and luxury goods focus.

Other than that, I’m part of Hermes or what we informally refer to as the “I Love Columbia Club” – I help out admissions by talking to prospective students. I also volunteer and am on the board of a 6th grade tutoring program. I’ve signed up to organize a Deloitte Day on Campus where these students come to campus to learn about Columbia and career opportunities at a consulting firm like Deloitte. I am also looking forward to being a teaching assistant for a corporate finance core class this semester and will be working closely with the faculty of that course.

After graduation in May I’ll have a couple of months before I start at Citibank. I’ll be going to Puerto Rico with the entire Columbia graduating business school class – a school tradition! – and then hope to travel a bit with my husband Muaz.



My visit to an orphanage in La Romana, Dominican Republic.



My husband Nuaz and me at our five-year anniversary dinner.

Dave Houlihan

*Georgetown University
McDonough School of Business*



I approached my summer internship search with a very open mind. Because my International Trade course was the most engaging of my first year, I accepted an internship at the United

States Trade Representative's Office, across the street from the White House. My role was largely strategic and quite varied. Among other things, I made recommendations for staffing the Trade Advisory Committee and suggestions for a presentation that was to be made to President Obama. I really enjoyed being around politics junkies and appreciated getting the strategy and political side of trade after learning the academic perspective. One terrific perk was getting a tour of the West Wing with my girlfriend, Laura Beyer!

My purpose in going to business school was to develop skills that would broaden my career options and maximize my impact. While I did not enter this experience with a specific career path in mind, I would enjoy working in non-profit strategy and/or political economy and that's where I've been interviewing. My longer-term goal is a position where I have significant influence and can make decisions about causes I really care about.

I'm really looking forward to delivering my capstone project here at Georgetown, which is a consulting project with an education services provider in Shanghai. As part of the project, I will go to Shanghai in March and then travel a bit on my own. I'm also having a good time volunteering for a charter school, working on systems and operations, and collaborating with two of my classmates to teach ourselves computer programming. Since it wasn't offered at the business school, we're putting the course together ourselves. I've already begun to fret that my time as a student is quickly running out, so I'm also trying to take advantage of Washington's museums and sights before I have to return to "real life".



With my girlfriend Laura Beyer outside the U.S. Trade Representative's Office.



Communing with nature.

John Mahler

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Sloan School of Management*



Last summer, I interned at Passport Capital, a hedge fund, where I was a quantitative research associate. I tried to use math and statistics to work with large sets of data and find evidence of economic and

behavioral biases in the equities market. As a self-professed math nerd, I really liked the academic environment. My supervisor was a PhD and encouraged me to take my time, be thorough, do an excellent job, and be collegial. Not your usual environment. My work culminated in two white papers for internal company use.

My career goal is to work in finance, specifically building quantitative investment strategies that will help build in safety for the individual and institutional investor. Pension funds should be well diversified to make sure they can meet their obligations, and one way to do that is through quantitative analysis. I believe there is a place in the investment world for all types of investing, especially the lower-volatility returns offered by many quantitative funds.

I am in the process of job interviewing with Passport and some other quant firms around the country. Further down the road, I would like to run money, in some capacity, and, very long after that, I hope to retire a bit early and start a second career as a high school teacher. This would be my way of giving back in a tangible way, as many of the most important figures in my life have been teachers.

My father, who passed away four-and-a-half years ago, was a gifted teacher. His impact, as well as the impact of my high school physics and calculus teachers, is still felt in my life every day. Teachers can profoundly affect the lives of students and I have huge amount of respect for them, especially public school teachers. Later on, I also hope to become involved as a board director for the charitable fund founded in my father's name after

his passing. It gives scholarships to high school students in the Puget Sound area.

This semester, I'm really looking forward to solidifying bonds with more of my classmates at MIT. I will admit that I've spent so much time on my classes, I've missed out a bit on the social life. I really want to soak up every moment of the time I have left at school. As the other Fellows surely know, the opportunity that we have to be surrounded by hundreds of the most intelligent and talented people in the world is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

I'm also really excited to have been approved to write a thesis as part of my degree. I'll be attempting to use big data in the form of abnormal weather patterns to try to predict firm returns in the market. My advisor is the professor I've been a teaching assistant for this year, and I'm thrilled to have more time to work with him. And, of course, I'm absolutely thrilled that the Seattle Seahawks made the Super Bowl!

After graduation, my wife Brittney – my biggest supporter and the mother of our two cats – and I hope to travel a bit. We met in elementary school in the same small town just south of Seattle and, sadly, have not found the time to get off of North America, save for one week in Paris for our first anniversary. We're thinking about South America or Europe for this next trip!



Alex Munns

*University of Michigan
Ross School of Business*



Last summer I interned at Baxter Bioscience, a company just outside of Chicago that develops therapies for patients with serious health conditions. I was the third member of the nascent oncology

commercialization team, looking to build Baxter's presence in the oncology therapeutic space through in-licensing or acquisition.

I really love the field of cancer therapeutics. It's an incredible time to be involved: the advance in biotherapeutic targeting combined with the explosion of data from more widely accessible genomic sequencing has resulted in innovative approaches to diagnosis and treatment. Some estimates have predicted that by 2050 no one below the age of 80 will die from cancer. I hope that's true.

Despite having an incredible summer, I learned some things about myself that have caused me to shift my thinking about my career. Rather than working purely in a commercial role for a company involved in therapeutic development, I realized that I'd rather analyze all aspects of early-stage biotech as a biotech equity analyst. I'm looking for a position in Chicago, as my wife's job and our families are there. Five years out, I hope to be at an asset management firm as a portfolio manager on the buy-side, covering small/midcap biotech companies.

Outside of my career search, I'm really enjoying my final term at Ross. I'm taking Intro German (rationale below) with undergrads, a PhD course in cancer biology, and a course where I (and my fellow MBA analysts) actively manage endowment money via a diversified portfolio of equities. I also continue to be very involved with the school's LGBTQ Student Association, spreading awareness and raising money for social issues that affect the lives of students who self-identify.

Finally, I'm excited that in May I'll be able to move to Berlin to join my wife, Sarah! She was selected for a one-year, highly-competitive internal exchange program at Boston Consulting Group that started this January. I'm extremely proud of her. Though this postpones my job search until we return to Chicago in December of 2015, the opportunity to live abroad with her was too good to pass up! Please look us up if you find yourselves in Germany this year. Hopefully, I'll be able to speak a little more German by then!



My UM consulting team for a project at a research center in Michigan.

Amanda Olar

*Carnegie Mellon University
Tepper School of Business*



My career interests are in healthcare so I spent my internship last summer at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton, NJ. I worked with an internal strategy and operations team inside the R&D

group. We dealt with a lot of analytics and statistical decision-making which was really interesting because that's a big emphasis in the Tepper program. I was just so impressed with the company culture there. It's hard to integrate into a new situation in only ten or twelve weeks but my team was so supportive and offered considerable mentoring as well. As good as the experience was, it really showed me that I'd be happiest in a broader setting – one that's a better combination of the patient aspect of healthcare as well as strategic initiatives.

I've accepted a job in the Los Angeles office of PricewaterhouseCoopers as a consultant in their healthcare advisory group. I want to learn more about healthcare so that down the road I can make a real impact. I loved working at the children's hospital in Pittsburgh and could see myself in that kind of setting eventually.

I just got back from an awesome vacation – I'd been looking forward to it for a long time! I traveled to Istanbul and Morocco – places I'd never been – with a couple friends and my sister. It was a great experience as we had friends in each city we visited so we could really see how the locals live, not just visit the usual tourist sites.

I'm also really excited about my academic track at Tepper: Management of Innovation and Product Development. Business students are put into teams of five or six with engineering and design students and we collaborate with a company that needs work on one of their product lines. My team just got our project and we're ready to go!

I'm probably most looking forward to moving to Los Angeles after graduation – I've never lived anywhere but Pittsburgh! Over spring break I'll be out there with my Mom and sister looking through neighborhoods and trying to get oriented. I'll take a couple months after graduation to relax and then it's off to LA by way of a cross country drive before I start my new job in August.



My sister and me traveling in Istanbul.



With my boyfriend Dustin Hazer.

Jason Sierra

Duke University
Fuqua School of Business



I had an incredible summer interning with the Boston Consulting Group out of their Washington, D.C. (Bethesda, MD) office. Surrounded by brilliant and likable coworkers, I had the opportunity to

work on a large retail team evaluating suppliers and negotiating contracts. I got a real thrill out of the immediacy of the cost savings we were able to achieve, the high client interaction, and the challenging pace at which I was brought up to speed and expected to perform. The work environment could not have been more different than my non-profit and artistic freelancing past and I loved it!

I'm planning a career in the public and social sectors and see time spent in management consulting as a key step in my development. I hope to gain exposure to a variety of industries while developing some expertise in organizational design and growth strategy. In a few years' time I hope to move into non-profit consulting and perhaps lead a business services firm specializing in non-profits.

I've just accepted a job offer to return to BCG's Washington office as a consultant, starting in the fall. I plan to move to DC with my partner, Josh Thomas, sometime in May. He will keep his job as executive director of Kids 4 Peace, an international, interfaith youth organization, and establish a permanent office in the DC area.

We spent winter break traveling to see family and friends before a week-long tour of Israel and Palestine where Josh does much of his work. It was my first time there and I got a very nuanced and personal look into the culture, history, and present struggles of the land. I am now in Barcelona where I will study for the next 9 or so weeks at the ESADE business school on exchange from Duke. The next few months will fly by, no

doubt, but I'm looking forward to a few more great courses on strategy, leadership and human-centered design as well as making some lasting memories with the other McGowan Fellows as we continue our work for the American Heart Association.

After graduation I'll spend the summer traveling, brushing up my Spanish, doing some graphic design work for friends, hanging out at the Episcopal Church's triennial 10,000 person convention, and finding some time to reopen my art supplies after a whirlwind few years. Never a dull moment!



My partner Josh Thomas, my niece, and me.



LGBT ally event at Fuqua.

Alumni News

2014

Kartik Bandhuvula writes that his holidays were lots of fun and included a brief trip to Lake Tahoe. He is also enjoying the west coast Alumni Peer Group, noting, “It helps to have Brigid Johnson ('14) in the group – she’s a great motivator!”

2013

“The excitement of 2014 didn’t end with my wedding last November,” notes **Karen Olson Diehl**. “With my husband Casey and our red lab Clover, I have relocated back to Boston’s South End for my new job at Liberty Mutual Group where I worked before business school. I’m now a director of strategy in the International Group. It’s been a VERY crazy time but we are excited to be closer to our families (mine in the Boston area and Casey’s in Maine).”



Kilkil Shah wishes everyone a very happy New Year! “I hope you all had a festive and restful holiday. I was with family and it was just what I needed as the months leading up were pretty hectic. I’m getting settled into my role at Castalia, an infrastructure advisory firm. My first project was analyzing a highway project in Lao PDR and I got the chance to present at a workshop in the capital of Vientiane. It was a quite an experience and my first time in Southeast Asia. I was there for a week and snuck away for a couple days to do some sightseeing. Besides that I celebrated a couple of my friends weddings in Mexico City and LA. Things should get quieter soon!



Site seeing in LAO PDR!

Nik Socratous and his new wife Alexandra recently returned from ten-day trip to Patagonia. “We had such an amazing time,” he says. “I’m still daydreaming about all the beautiful landscapes, wildlife, and scenery we experienced.”

Molly White reports from Pittsburgh that she and her husband Kevin are becoming homeowners in February. “We’re moving one block away to a bit of a ‘project’ (wallpaper on the ceilings). I’d love to get tips from anyone with renovation experience!” [Try Dif on that wallpaper, Ed.]



2012

Kaitlyn Caughlin and her husband Ryan Oney have moved to Arizona. “We are currently living in our home town of Phoenix where we both grew up and went to middle school together! I still work for Vanguard but from our Scottsdale office. I’m now a client service specialist department head, running our high net worth client service center for Vanguard’s retail clients and managing a 30-person leadership team and around 250 investment professionals.”

Constantinos Coutifaris and his wife Ali have welcomed a Welsh terrier named Milos into their family. He reports that they are “beyond excited!”



Rob Spies has begun a new job with the Strategic Resource Group at the private equity firm Thomas H. Lee Partners in Boston. “We are an operating group that gets deployed into our portfolio companies to help leadership push forward on strategic initiatives,” he says. “I’m currently working in New York City with Inventiv Health, a healthcare services company, but the year should take me to a handful of our companies.”

Jen Tindle relates, “It’s been about seven months since I left Brooklyn for Oak Park, MI, which is just outside Detroit. I moved into the house right next door to my parents and, to my great surprise, it’s actually been a positive as my dad is only a few seconds away when something goes wrong! So

far, we’ve refurbished the hardwood floors, had plumbing problems and electrical issues, and slowly but surely I am getting used to shoveling snow and brushing my car off in the morning. It’s all worth it to be close to my family and have a place to call our own, but we miss the food in New York (and the wonderful app that is Seamless) immensely!

“The new job has also taken some getting used to. At KIPP NYC, I was director of financial planning and analysis (a big fish in a small 500-employee pond). Here at Blue Cross Blue Shield, I am a financial coordinator (a very, very small fish in a 7,000-employee ocean). The work load is lighter and less stressful, but in some ways less meaningful. So lately I endeavor to find meaning in activities outside of work. I’m diving deeper into my yoga and meditation practices, spending more time with my family, and have discovered a new interest and joy in cooking (something I NEVER did in NYC)!

“We have two new additions to the family – Colby and Skylar. They have quickly carved out a huge place in our hearts – and this is coming from a dog person!”



2011

“Melissa and I have had an exciting few months since the Symposium,” says **Dave Adelman**. “We moved into our new house in Alexandria, VA, checked off an item on our bucket list by seeing the Northern Lights in Iceland over New Year’s, and, most importantly, we found out we’ll be having a boy in April. Never a dull moment. Looking forward to hopefully seeing you all soon and introducing you to the future Baby Boy Adelman!”



Save the Date!



**Second Annual
Alumni Reunion**

July 30-August 2

**Rocky Mountain
National Park
in Colorado**

**RSVP on Facebook
or contact the
Alumni Committee.**