



# Alumni Newsletter

FALL 2013

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## What is “OurSpace”?

As you know, the PwC Scholars have an annual end-of-the-year Community Service Project, which we focus on fundraising for throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, and ultimately aims to benefit the Binghamton community. This year though, the Scholars have taken on a slightly more ambitious goal: OurSpace. This goal consists of a two year project to renovate Rec Park on the West Side of Binghamton, and the Scholars are working side-by-side with Jennifer O’Brien of Life is Washable Inc., the Community Committee, and Binghamton City Parks and Recreation. In 2014, the focus will be on refurbishing the baseball fields in

Rec Park, including grounds up-keep, new dugouts, and bleachers. In 2015, the focus will be on building a fully-accessible play space, featuring handicap-accessible playground equipment, play stations, and creative outlets for an all-inclusive experience for children and families. OurSpace will be funded through fundraising by the PwC Scholars from 2013 through 2015, as well as through a variety of other sources. In addition to giving Rec Park and the city of Binghamton a new look, it will also lessen the burden on families with disabled children, who have to travel miles and miles to find this type

of playground. Peter Ling, father of Mather Stover-Ling who is a child with spina bifida, said “When we travel out of town, we have a lot to pack for him and a lot of arrangements to make out of town, so with it being a couple minutes away it’ll be very easy to pack up and come over here.” The PwC Scholars are extremely excited about this unprecedented project, and look forward to seeing it begin to come to fruition next Spring! Pictured below is relationship partner Matt Singer, speaking at the Press Release:



## Scholars Successes:

### PwC Challenge

In early October, the PwC Challenge competition was announced and Brandon Hohenberg, Laura Averzano, Nate Holahan, and Sarah Safeer formed a team, Sustainable Scholars. They embarked on the competition as a team of three freshmen and one sophomore. This was a completely new experience, as they had no prior knowledge of tax or case competitions. They were asked to analyze the case, make assumptions, and formulate innovative ideas. The case competition asked for a solution for the fictional state of Westmead’s problem with insufficient funds for maintaining the state’s roads and infrastructure. They began researching information about tax codes and ways to creatively and effectively solve the fictional state’s problem; the state had been losing gas tax revenue due to an increase in efficient and alternatively powered vehicles.

After hours of group meetings, individual research, presentation preparation, and practicing, the day of the presentation arrived. Before the presentation, the team agreed that regardless of the outcome, they had learned to work as a team, how to communicate effectively, how to dedicate time to a project, information about the tax system, and gained the ability to adapt to changes in the case. The first presentation went well, and the final presentation was even better. Sustainable Scholars successfully conveyed their creative package of reforms to the board of PwC professionals, and were named the winners of Binghamton University.

-Sarah Safeer, 2017

# Fundraising Efforts

This year's fundraising efforts, led by the VP of Fundraising Jake Weiss, are well underway toward our goal of \$25,000. We are focusing heavily on event-based fundraising, where members of each class have the opportunity to get involved in planning and executing the events. Read about some of the fantastic events below:



Scholars getting ready for the Water Pong Tournament!

*The Haunted Trail marked "the first time that the freshmen PwC Scholars have been able to organize and execute a fundraiser on their own."*

## Date Auction

This year's date auction was a great success. We raised a total of **\$3,030!** I feel that what made this year's auction so successful was the fact that we had more professionals, and some very important professionals. We had a six person committee plus one chair to plan the

event. The committee was split into three different groups; a marketing committee, a logistics committee, and an auctionee recruiting committee. Each group was responsible for different aspects of the planning. Some aspects of the planning had to be slightly rushed because of the

time frame we were given to plan the event, however overall the planning went smoothly and led to a great event. Thank you to everyone who came to the event and helped out in any way. -Rachel Kuhl, 2016

## Water Pong Tournament

The PwC Scholars held two Water Pong tournaments this semester by putting in hours of planning and preparation. The first tournament in September, where we partnered with the Interfraternity Council to

expand the tournament to Greek life, raised **\$900** and had over 140 students participating! The second tournament brought in **\$200** with 40 students participating! These Water Pong Tournaments have

been fun, exciting and successful! And Congratulations to our winners, James Kuo, Eli Schwatz, Ryan Logrieco and Jake Weiss! -Molly Law, 2016

## The Haunted Trail

The freshman class organized and executed their very own fundraising event this year: The Haunted Trail. The Haunted Trail was a spooky walk through the Pipeline Trail of the Nature Preserve, complete with loud music and live scarers just in

time for Halloween. Charging \$5 per person, the event raised over **\$700** making it a very successful event. Sarah Safeer and James Kuo, co-chairs of freshman fundraising, hope to make this a sustainable event that can continue to grow

every year. Safeer stated, "Our first goal is of course to raise enough money, but we really just wanted people to have fun and be scared because we're hoping to make this a more sustainable and scary event."

## Ignite

Ignite, formally known as the CLIP Competition, will be a major fundraising event taking place on February 4th, 2014. The planning committees have been working on organizing the event all semester, and are very excited to finally execute it next semester. The event will feature approximately 10 firms, and host approximately 100 students. Confirmed firms include PwC, EY, KPMG, Deloitte, Protiviti, McGladrey, Northwestern Mutual, M&T Bank, and Friedman LLP, with more potentially being added to

the list. The goal of the event is to provide a unique environment for networking, and is primarily aimed toward undergrads. The Product Development Team has created a series of challenges and games that require creativity and teamwork to solve. The idea behind Ignite, and what makes it stand out as a networking event, is that students get a chance to show their skills in front of professionals in a natural environment. Rather than the standard, typical conversations that occur at traditional

networking events, the event will provide the opportunity for students to actually prove their skills by competing alongside recruiters. After the games, there will be a traditional networking sessions where students will have the chance to talk with recruiters that they either did not get to work with or did not have time to talk to. We are looking forward to this being a very successful event! -Anna Taranova, 2015

# Guest Speakers

As part of the Fall 2013 Speaker Series, organized by External VP Claire Shannon, we have heard from three fantastic speakers: **Matthew Gawors, Miriam Cancian, and Walter Arnold**. Following are some highlights from our time with Mr. Arnold: Walter Arnold, the Director of Citibank North America End User Support Services spoke to students remotely about professional and leadership advice. Scholars were able to take away professional advice such as what it takes

to be successful in the workplace. He talked about the three employee characteristics, honesty, integrity, and work ethic as driving factors for being a successful worker. Walter Arnold also shared some insight about the impact new hires have on the culture of the company they enter. He suggested that new hires should ask questions in a polite, respectful manner and understand that the senior management have more experience. Scholars took away some of his leader-

ship advice when he was in the military such as punctuality and teamwork. Walter Arnold shared the statement, "Early is on time and on time is late." He also talked about the importance of working in a team-setting and striving to being a leader. He shared some of the challenges in his current position managing 700 employees and what motivates him to work everyday! -Brandon Hohenberg, 2017

Additionally, the Scholars had the opportunity to be one of two schools selected to watch a broadcast of a speech made by **Erskine Bowles** to a group of executives of Fortune 500 companies. Erskine Bowles made a speech about the fiscal health of the United States, and the problems that will be

caused by our nation's debt. He said that the debt isn't just an issue that concerns the next generation, it is an issue that should concern everybody, and it must be addressed. Mr. Bowles talked extensively about the options that are available to fix our debt problems, which included making changes to social se-

curity and the tax code. Mr. Bowles was hopeful that our dysfunctional government will make the tough choices that are necessary to fix our fiscal problems. -Robert Pim, 2017

## CQS 111 Mentoring Program

The CQS 111 Mentoring Program was organized by our Internal VP, Jiahao (Gary) Zeng, where upperclass Scholars are assigned as mentors to a group of freshman enrolled in the SOM-wide CQS 111 class. Tiffany Choi, a senior mentor, provides a testimonial: "Mentors are remarkable people with a distinct love and appreciation to help others, and it has been a pleasure for the past semester to mentor a group of School of Management freshmen as part

of the PwC Scholars Program. I helped them adjust to the School of Management through accelerating professional development and instilling business ethics that, in the end, my mentees displayed their appreciation and gratitude towards me. I have gained immense knowledge from my previous mentors throughout college and it was a great experience to reciprocate and do the same by continuing the circle of

love and knowledge." One of Choi's mentees, Bennett Feuerstein also provided a testimonial: "The CQS 111 Mentoring Program was crucial to my development as an ethical individual. The mentoring program gave me the individual guidance necessary to understanding the ethical dilemmas presented in each case we studied. My mentor was active in guiding our mentee group during and out of our classroom discussions. It was nice to have a resource in SOM who was also a student and could relate to challenges a freshman was dealing with, and that could offer advice to solve these challenges."

## A word from our Social VP...

The Scholars Program is made up of a diverse student body. We all have different talents and interests but sometimes, they align. Our program provides us with a lot of opportunities to network with professionals and alumni but at the same time, that has made it hard for us to meet each other. The goal for the social events has and will

continue to be quite simple: create a space and opportunity for Scholars to get to know each other. This semester, that has taken form in different ways. From the Chenango Trail Clean Up and Bowling Fundraiser for the Magic Paintbrush to the different class socials, it has been really awesome to see Scholars getting to know each other. It never ceases to amaze

me how much more we have in common than we initially allow ourselves to believe.

Some of my closest friends are Scholars and I've found that the only time I see them outside of class are at Scholars events. We're all awesome people - sometimes, we just need the chance to see that about each other.

-Lauren Leong, 2014



Scholars enjoying the Kick-Off event!



Facebook: PwC Scholars at Binghamton U.  
Tumblr: PwC Scholars  
Twitter: @PwCScholars  
Instagram: @PwCScholars  
LinkedIn:  
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/PwC-Scholars-Program-Binghamton-University-3836847>

#### **2013-2014 E-Board**

President - David Schwartz  
Internal Vice President - Jiahao (Gary) Zeng  
External Vice President - Claire Shannon  
VP of Fundraising - Jacob Weiss  
Social Vice President - Lauren Leong  
Secretary - Ben English  
Treasurer - Anthony Lee  
VP of Membership Relations - Andrea Cioffi

Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter and for catching up on what has been going on this past semester! We hope that whether you are an alumni, or a current Scholar, you are ready to connect with the Program. We also hope that you connect with us on social media, with a big thank you to Dana Willie, Rohan Nayyar, Dana Kisenwether, Laura Dwyer, and Hannah Hersch for maintaining these sites. Additionally, our website is currently under construction but will be up and running during the Spring semester.

If you know anyone who graduated the program with you who did not receive this issue, please encourage them to reach out to the VP of Membership Relations, Andrea Cioffi, at [acioffi2@binghamton.edu](mailto:acioffi2@binghamton.edu).

Keep an eye out towards the end of the Spring semester for our next issue filled with updates on the Community Service Project, our international trip to Italy, and more!

## Where in the world are the PwC Scholars?

In January 2014, the Annual Scholars International Winter Trip will be to Italy. A total of 32 students will be going on the nine-day adventure to visit Milan, Florence, Pisa, Rome, and the Vatican. The PwC office in Milan, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Ponte Vecchio, and the Colosseum are just a few of what are sure to be many highlights of the trip. We will be sure to keep everyone updated with pictures on our social media sites. Ciao!

-Graham Taylor, 2015

