



Alumni Newsletter

SPRING 2014

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OurSpace: Phase I

This year's Scholars Community Service Day took place on April 25th and we spent the day renovating the Little League field at Binghamton's Rec Park with the help of the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. Scholars arrived throughout the day, helping to paint a mural, construct a new scoreboard, plant a garden and trees, clean up the park, install new fencing, and build new dugouts. Many PwC Scholars alumni joined in on the eventful day. Funding for this project came from the numerous fundraisers from the academic year, netting over \$19,000. We also received donations and contributions from community organizations like Visions Federal Credit Union, who generously donated \$23,000 which helped pay for the new fencing. The large baseball field will be receiving an electronic scoreboard (a donation from Levine, Gouldin & Thompson, LLP) and other renovations this upcoming summer. A press conference was held in the afternoon to discuss our project and future plans. Improving the baseball fields was the first phase in revitalizing Rec Park. OurSpace is the name of our two year project and is a collaboration between the PwC Scholars, the city of Binghamton, and the non-profit organization, Life is Washable. This collaboration has worked the past months in the the research, planning, and design, and will be utilizing the community and the city to implement and sustain. Phase two is next year's project and will include the building of an accessible playground called "PlaySpace," a sound garden "SoundSpace," a vertical garden "GrowSpace" with a partnership with Vines, "FitSpace" will be fitness stations placed along the walking paths and will be made possible with a partnership with UHS, "TreeSpace" will be a raised tree deck, "GatherSpace" will be an accessible place for groups to sit, eat, and be together, "CrowdSpace" will be a small amphitheater, and "OpenSpace" will be an open area for everyone's enjoyment. This project is set to be completed in Summer 2015 and will be funded by Scholar's fundraising, grants, and donations. This past community service day, tours of the future OurSpace were being given to community members, public officials, and members of the press. The goal of OurSpace is to create accessible spaces for everyone in the Binghamton community to enjoy and provide a community resource for over 30,000 area residents and their families that live with a disability. We look forward to continuing the planning and finishing OurSpace next year!

-Sarah Safeer, 2017

Scholars Successes:

Lauren Leong's Success Story

It's hard for me to pinpoint one example or a single experience that defines the success of what Scholars has been for me, mainly because there have been so many. But being able to meet such a diverse student body across the 4 years of my undergraduate years has truly been incredible. I genuinely love meeting Scholars and getting to know their story: who they are, what interests them, what dreams they have, what they aspire to be, what they're involved in on campus, where they're from, where they've been, where they want to go, what they have done. Seriously – we've done some pretty awesome things.. Some of those awesome things include our fundraising events. Seeing all the hours of hard work and planning come to fruition by a group of people who probably didn't know each other very well beforehand renders me speechless. I'm a huge fan of stories and Scholars for me is just a huge, beautiful open book full of colorful people and intertwined lives.

-Lauren Leong, 2014

Fundraising Efforts

This year's fundraising efforts, led by the VP of Fundraising Jake Weiss, raised over \$20,000! 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 at Community Service Day — the ultimate goal for all of our fundraising!

Ignite “was a huge success, bringing 105 students together with more than 20 recruiters from a diverse range of firms...”

Minute to Win It!

The Minute to Win it Fundraiser, held by the Freshman Scholars, was a glorious event raising over \$550. With the DJ and host (James Kuo) mcing on the addictive and tricky mini games such as the coin toss (Brandon Hoehenberg), cup stack (Robert Pim and Jason Sil-

ber), match the skittle (Miranda Wasserman and Harrison Tighe), word search (Tom Casey), and much more, the event illuminated hours of fun and entertainment. The event offered mouth-watering prizes such as a Kindle Fire, Ying Yang Tapestry, Vera Bradley Bags,

PwC Swag, and much more from kind donations from Lauren Palmer and Victoria Eckenrod. This was the Freshman Scholars second fundraiser and everyone had a blast from designing the event, to running the event, and even participating in the event! -James Kuo, 2017

Paddle Auction

The Paddle Auction is an event where participants can enter as many chances as they want for a certain prize, and then a winner is chosen at random. It is held as a night-long event where prizes

are raffled off one by one, similar to an auction. It was a lot of fun this year — the awesome prizes, combined with Mario's Pizza, and the Crosbys performance made it a really great event. The

team worked really hard on making this event a success and we ended up raising around \$1,600. Thank you to everyone who participated!

-Dan Malinovsky, 2015

Ignite

This year, the Scholars program hosted Ignite, an event focused on igniting relationships between students and recruiters through various team challenges. The event was a huge success, bringing 105 students together with more than 20 recruiters from a diverse range of firms in-

cluding the Big Four, Protiviti, NBT Bank, and more. While students were able to showcase their creative, logic, and leadership skills, professionals were able to meet and interact with teams of students in a collaborative, social atmosphere. Netting a profit of just over \$5,600, the money

raised from this event comprised a significant portion of the Scholars' event-based fundraising efforts for the year, ultimately helping to make the Rec Park community service project successful.

-Taylor Tobey, 2014

Speaker Series

As part of the Spring 2014 Speaker Series, organized by External VP Claire Shannon, we have heard from three enlightening speakers: **Tyrone Muse, Dr. Marion Martinez, and Gray Meltzer.** Our first speaker, Tyrone Muse, is the President/CEO of Visions Federal Credit Union, a \$3.2 billion financial institution headquartered in Endicott/ Endwell, NY serving nearly 170,00 members in three states. Tyrone shared his background with the group and talked about the different hurdles he had to overcome throughout his life. More specifically, he acknowledged the role models that helped him succeed and taught the scholars the importance of creating an “inner circle” with trusting and encouraging mentors. Tyrone also shared his career path as an Audit Manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers, a Controller at Goldman Sachs, and a Finance Manager at GE. He

talked about the valuable experiences he had at these companies and advised all of the scholars to keep an open mind when life starts to throw curve balls. The second speaker of the semester was Dr. Marion Martinez, the Binghamton City School District Superintendent. As the superintendent, Dr. Martinez is responsible for overseeing the direction and operation of the entire school district. She talked about her role as a leader and the importance of being an ethical leader. Dr. Martinez also discussed the benefits of being able to collaborate with others in a group environment. She explained that there is an enormous difference between traditional leadership and 21st century leadership—stressing the importance of being able to work alongside and manage others. Dr. Martinez also spoke about being a positive person at all times. She recommended that everyone

start saying “yes” more often and become more open to the great opportunities that surround us everyday. The third speaker was Gary Meltzer, PwC’s leader of the New York Metro Advisory Practice. He talked about the different megatrends that will transform our lives in the next few decades. He also explained the importance of predicting trends when consulting companies on large-scale projects, such as the ones he works on at PwC. He mainly discussed the five major trends that he foresees in the future. This includes a shift in global economic power, demographic shifts, and an accelerating urbanization. He also talked about the predicted climate change and the different technological breakthroughs. Gary was extremely insightful and his presentation kept the students engaged.

-Zachary Loeb, 2016

Sophomore Trip

This year's Sophomore Trip to visit PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City was a great experience. The trip started at PwC where the three finalist in this year's annual case competition presented to partners at the firm. After, we received advise from Binghamton University alumni both in a panel and in small groups. The groups ate lunch together and were able to tour the PwC offices which have amazing views from every floor despite it being a foggy

day. We took a break after lunch to show off our talents in a mini talent show. The winning team did a humorous take on P90X workout tapes, calling it "PwCX", which had everyone laughing. Next, we had a presentation about client relations with General Motors as the guest client. For the first time, we all were able to see what it is really like to work with a client in a big firm. Dinner was next on the agen-

da and we ate at the delicious Tony DiNapoli's. Everyone ate until they were stuffed and we could not believe there was still one thing left to be done! We walked through Time Square to get to the Broadway classic, The Lion King. The show lived up to the hype and if you ever get the chance to, you should go see it. Finally, at 11:15pm, we were back on the bus to Binghamton with most people fast asleep to conclude the amazing day we all had in NYC.

-Amanda Perri, 2016

A word from our Social VP...

This semester, two of the events held were the Skate Estate Social and trip to Greek Peak. The Skate Estate Social was a great opportunity for people in the program to come together to do something fun and different. We held the event after closing hours so the only people there were Scholars. Matt and Lauren also attended and brought

prizes with them to be raffled off, including a Kindle Fire. Between the actual skating and laser tag we had, it was definitely a fun time for all that attended. The trip to Greek Peak was equally successful. Although attendance was less than anticipated, those that went had a great time. For the experienced skiers and snowboarders and beginners alike, the

weather and conditions were perfect for an amazing day at the slopes. We had positive feedback from those that went and hope to see this event potentially done annually!

-Lauren Leong, 2014



Scholars enjoying the Skate Estate 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

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Social Vice President - Lauren Leong

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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 can be found at www.busomscholars.org.

If you know anyone who graduated the program with you who did not receive this issue, please encourage them to reach out to next year's VP of Membership Relations, Benjamin English, at benglis1@binghamton.edu

The 2013-2014 E-Board would like to thank everyone for a fantastic year, and we are looking forward to many more to come!

Where in the world are the PwC Scholars?

For this year, the annual scholars trip brought us to Italy. We started out in Milan, with the highlights being the PwC office and the Last Supper. After stopping in Pisa to hold up its tower, we went to Florence where we were amazed by the size, colors, and complexity of the Duomos. The Ponte Vecchio and the Medici's secret passage lined with fascinating portraits were other memorable destinations in Florence. In Rome we traveled back to early AD with tours of the Colosseum and Forum, and ensured a return trip by throwing coins into the Trevi Fountain. Finally, we repented our sins with the Pope in the Vatican and St Paul's Basilica. Good food and drink was had by all on this memorable trip. Ciao!

-Graham Taylor, 2015

