**Senior Seminar Endowed Fund eclipses $100,000**

Fifteen years ago, Jeffrey Montague was teaching his senior seminar course to just six students. Montague, now assistant dean, never dreamed the class would offer students the experience or support it does.

To date, students in the required Senior Professional Development Seminar have raised more than $100,000 to aid their peers through the Senior Seminar Endowed Scholarship Fund. Since April 2005, the fund has awarded between $3,500 and $4,500 to at least two students in the spring and fall semesters.

Sport and recreation management major Malcolm Smith was one of six students who received support from the scholarship fund in Spring 2011. To complete his senior internship, Smith traveled more than 2,000 miles to Arizona State University (ASU). He said it was the scholarship funding that allowed him to take the internship.

“I would not have been able to accept this position without it,” said Smith, who received $1,500. “Thank’s to that assistance, he secured housing, put money toward a new computer and paid for a flight to Arizona during the busy holiday season.”

—Chelsea Calhoun

**GPFA names Priya Penumarthi Student Intern of the Year**

Recent School of Tourism and Hospitality Management graduate Priya Penumarthi was named Hospitality Student Intern of the Year at the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association’s 13th annual “Shining Stars of the Hotel Industry” award ceremony in October 2011.

Penumarthi was recognized for her work with the Holiday Inn Philadelphia-Historic District, her former internship site and current employer. “As an intern, Priya became a role model for our regular employees,” said June Seminario, the hotel’s manager. “Her determination, work ethic, talent and enthusiasm has left a lasting imprint on our management team that extends to our staff and our guests.”

At first, Penumarthi was unsure which department she wanted to work for, but through the internship she was able to test out several different positions. In her first few weeks she rotated between food and beverage, housekeeping, sales, accounting and more. She settled on a front desk management position, which she holds today.

Prior to working with the Holiday Inn Philadelphia-Historic District, Penumarthi interned with the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing. Ardent Meeting & Event Management and the Center City Proprietors Association.

She encourages current hospitality students to seek as many internships as possible and to show prospective employers that you genuinely care about your career and your future. “Any experience is good experience,” she said. —Christine Fisher

**Internships move three sport management seniors from college classroom to college athletics**

After spending years together in Speakman Hall classrooms, senior sport management majors Craig McNamgy, Taryn Nichols and Jon Kerzetski have followed sport-industry internships to colleges hundreds of miles apart.

Studying sports information as a junior at the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management inspired McNamgy to pursue a career in sports public relations and an internship with Philadelphia University. “Larry Dougherty’s class helped me envision myself in sports public relations,” McNamgy said. “Now I’m living it.”

Nichols came to STHM with a passion for field hockey but no idea which college major she wanted to work for, but through the internship she was able to test out several different positions. In her first few weeks she rotated between food and beverage, housekeeping, sales, accounting and more. She settled on a front desk management position, which she holds today.

Prior to working with the Holiday Inn Philadelphia-Historic District, Penumarthi interned with the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing. Ardent Meeting & Event Management and the Center City Proprietors Association.

She encourages current hospitality students to seek as many internships as possible and to show prospective employers that you genuinely care about your career and your future. “Any experience is good experience,” she said. —Christine Fisher

“One of the most important things we’ve learned is the value of education and the importance of networking,” Kerzetski said. “The more I thought of it, the more I realized that sports management was an industry I could see myself really contributing too.” Nichols said. She hopes behind-the-scenes knowledge from her internship with Indiana University’s compliance department will translate into a career.

Kerzetski’s internship with Notre Dame University’s football team reminds him why he chose STHM in the first place. And having been a Notre Dame fan his whole life, it makes him certain that he’s made the right choice.

“The program requires two internships and a total of 250 industry-related hours,” Kerzetski said, “so I’ve honestly been set up to be successful.”

—Carl O’Donnell

“The more I thought of it, the more I realized that sports management was an industry I could see myself really contributing too.” Nichols said. She hopes behind-the-scenes knowledge from her internship with Indiana University’s compliance department will translate into a career.

Kerzetski’s internship with Notre Dame University’s football team reminds him why he chose STHM in the first place. And having been a Notre Dame fan his whole life, it makes him certain that he’s made the right choice.

“The program requires two internships and a total of 250 industry-related hours,” Kerzetski said, “so I’ve honestly been set up to be successful.”

—Carl O’Donnell