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 $3,000 and $4,000 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 $1,000. "Thanks 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

GPHA names Priya Penumarthy Student Intern of the Year

Recent School of Tourism and Hospitality Management graduate Priya Penumarthy was named Hospitality Student Intern of the Year at the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association’s 11th annual “Shining Stars of the Hotel Industry” award ceremony in October 2011.

Penumarthy 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 Penumarthy 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, Penumarthy had 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.”

“As an intern, Priya became a role model for the management team that extends to our staff and our guests.”

“At first Penumarthy 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.”

“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 McAnany, 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 McAnany to pursue a career in sports public relations and an internship with Philadelphia’s football team.

“Larry Dougherty’s class helped me envision myself in sports public relations,” McAnany said. “Now I’m living it.”

Nichols came to STHM with a passion for field hockey but no idea which college major to pursue—until a friend told her to major in hospitality. “I thought, ‘What? And having been a Notre Dame fan his whole life, it makes him certain that he’s made the right choice.”

“I was really unsure which internship to pursue—I’m really contributing too,” Nichols said. “Larry Dougherty’s class helped me envision myself in sports public relations.”

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 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