Steven H. Korman, center, is flanked by two members of his team at AKA Rittenhouse: Tim Nolan, BS ’09, the property’s assistant general manager, and Gemma Duffy, a sales intern and Korman Scholar.

School of Tourism and Hospitality Management students divide their senior years between academic and professional settings. The fall is committed to their Senior Seminar course. The spring is set aside for experiential internships.

Here’s a look at where the Korman Scholars spent their final semesters as undergraduates:

**Shane Brennan**
Programming
Great Valley Community Organization
Malvern, Pa.

**Victoria Noboa**
Sales and Catering
The Franklin Institute
Philadelphia

**Carlos Deno**
Promotions
Madison Square Garden
New York, N.Y.

**Kelly O’Brien**
Event Management
Mid-Atlantic Events Magazine
Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

**Gemma Duffy**
Sales
aka Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia

**Michelle Siporin**
Team Operations
Madison Square Garden
New York, N.Y.

**David Heggan**
Sales
Four Seasons
Philadelphia

**Julia Stief**
Operations
CID Entertainment
Philadelphia

**Morgan Jenkins**
Digital Marketing
United States Olympic Committee
Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Patrycja Sypien**
Accounting
Four Seasons
Philadelphia

**Chynna West**
Food and Beverage
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
Orlando, Fla.

**Kyle Martin**
Operations
United States Olympic Committee
Chula Vista, Calif.

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He took out his wallet and gave the man all he had: $300. Korman said that he had recently shared this story with MBA students on a visit to a Philadelphia-area university.

“Not a dry eye in the room,” Korman said. “The room was loaded with people who, in their eyes, view success as dollars and cents. That never made sense to me. … That might have been my first day of my first job — and back then, $300 was a lot of money — but it was that day that I knew I liked me as a businessman, and I never wanted to change who I was.”

Korman’s commitment to STHM’s Korman Scholars did not conclude with a one-time gift. He’s met with the students at least once a year since. Last year, he hosted them on a day trip to New York City. Korman attended their Senior Seminar Semi-formal in December at the Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia. That night, they presented to him a handmade scrapbook, with each Korman Scholar designing a personalized, individual page, and Korman pledged another gift to the students upon their graduation in May.

“They have to know I’m here and they can call me,” he said. “I think, also, that this is just the start for me. It’s something that was a wonderful experience. I’ve learned a lot from them — definitely more than they’ve learned from me.”

That’s an understatement, said senior Gemma Duffy.

“He’s not just a donor. He’s family,” said Duffy, who interned with AKA Rittenhouse in the spring semester.

“I feel indebted, to pay forward his generosity,” added Chynna West, a spring-semester corporate management trainee with Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, in Orlando, Fla.

In his day-to-day, with Korman Communities, Korman manages commercial real estate in the New York City, Philadelphia and Washington metro areas, and has expanded to Beverly Hills and internationally, into London.

“I’d like to say I have a unique talent,” Korman said, “but any of us could pick a property. If I took you around Philadelphia, you’d pick 18th Street and Rittenhouse Square. You look for the best, you pick it and you get it. That’s not a talent. “I’ve picked good properties. Those 20 kids were the best I ever picked.”

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