



Our newsletter will take us beyond the classroom to how our students, staff, and faculty connect to the City of Chicago, the nation, and the world. You'll hear about our students' internships and travel to foreign countries and how our professors are reaching students across the globe. We are not bound by the classroom walls.

This fall semester I was also able to be "out of the classroom" as I headed over to Sweden in September as a North Park faculty representative to the Swedish-American Bridge Conference in Karlstad, Sweden. Among the four senior students participating, SBNM was represented by Alexander Gutierrez—a Business & Economics major. All of the students were engaged both in the formal part of the conference, which focused on the roles of cultural organizations, entrepreneurship and environmental research, and on the informal part where bridges were built between cultures during meals and receptions. I was very proud of our students!

As you read stories about our students, faculty and staff, realize that we consider you — our alumni and friends -- as partners in the world and our connections outside the classroom. Let us know how we might build better bridges to you through our educational offerings, events and communication efforts.

Wesley E. Lindahl, Ph.D.
Dean



Colette Hands in counseling session with student.

From first to finish

By: Colette Hands

The Career Development & Internships Office is an integral part of North Park University's mission to prepare students for lives of significance and service. Our First to Finish initiative seeks to engage North Park undergraduate students in the Career Development process beginning with their first year on campus. The intent is to foster a successful transition from high school (or other academic institution) to North Park and subsequently, upon graduation, to a graduate school program or the workforce.

The Career Development & Internships Office offers services to assist undergraduate students in making appropriate academic and career related decisions. A range of personalized career counseling and development services are provided, including: skill development opportunities, professional development workshops, interest inventories, career planning courses, four-year action plans, and an alumni network. The Office also serves as a clearinghouse for information relating to career options, internships, job opportunities, volunteer opportunities and graduate programs. It is the intent of the office to assist students in developing an understanding of themselves and the workforce, and then facilitate the integration of these findings so

that effective decisions may be made regarding academic major and career choices.

SBNM students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree are required to complete an internship, and those students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts are strongly encouraged to complete an internship. The internship program is designed to enhance the student's practical experience in their area of study, allowing them to develop and utilize their academic training under the supervision of their faculty sponsor; and also to develop real world, marketable skills that will allow them a competitive advantage when seeking employment upon graduation.

For North Park University students, Chicago is an occupational laboratory. Furthermore, an essential component of the University's stated commitment to being "intentionally urban" is our ability to provide students with meaningful, relevant internships and volunteer opportunities in the Chicagoland area. Jacob Laffey, a senior with an expectant graduation date of May 2013, and a current intern with American Homeowner Preservation, LP, states, "My internship has taught me a lot about what it takes to be successful both in school and in life. I have been fortunate enough to work alongside a group of people

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who take it upon themselves to try and help others in a distressed situation. Our goal is to help others while managing to have an economic return for the investors as well. Although the majority of the homeowners we work with are severely under water on their mortgage, AHP offers borrowers viable, sustainable solutions to stay in their homes with reduced payments.” As a result of his excellent work as an intern, Jacob was recently offered a full-time position with the company.

Danielle Paventi graduated summa cum laude from SBNM in 2011, with a Bachelors of Science in Business and Economics, with concentrations in accounting and finance. She interned with Pricewaterhouse Coopers, which subsequently led to a permanent position with this prestigious firm. Like Danielle, several students have used their internship experience to launch their careers.

As noted, the Career Development & Internships Office serves as a clearing house for volunteer opportunities. Volunteer opportunities allow students to develop valuable personal and professional skills and be immersed in their field of study or personal interest at sites with universal name recognition, with recognizable community/world impact in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. Volunteer opportunities by their very nature require students to embrace Chicago, to understand practical applications of their academic education, to truly work and live in a culturally diverse, globally-based economy, and to determine how to live a life of significance and service within the context of the world of work.

The Career Development & Internships Office plays a critical role in the recruitment and retention efforts at North Park University. Our focus is to intentionally connect with students and faculty to identify student academic and career interests in order to facilitate more informed and realistic conversations and decisions about their future beyond North Park. ■

Join the SBNM's 2013 international experience!

The destination for the 2013 SBNM International Experience is Buenos Aires, Argentina. The purpose of the International Experience is to help participants gain a better understanding of business, nonprofit management, government, and education in Argentina, as well as provide opportunities to learn about Argentina's rich history, culture, social customs, etc.

Argentina, South America's second largest economy and the world's largest Spanish speaking nation, enjoyed strong economic growth in the 1990s prior to a calamitous sovereign debt default in 2001, the origins of which are not dissimilar to those impacting troubled countries in the European Union. A member of the G-20 group of nations, Argentina boasts one of the most literate populations in the world, and is noted for its socially progressive society. During our visit we'll examine the opportunities and challenges of doing business in Argentina, and analyze the impact of the country's politics and economic policies on economic growth, the nonprofit sector, and foreign investment in Argentina. Further, we'll explore Argentine history and culture—including the significant migration from Europe in the early twentieth century—and how they shape Argentine contemporary social, business, and nonprofit practice.

For more details and an application, visit the SBNM graduate website or contact Chris Nicholson at 773-244-5518 or cnicholson@northpark.edu



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“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.”

When I began teaching at North Park as an adjunct professor, I realized that many of our students had a great deal of interest in career-related matters. I would often speak about my professional work and bring guest speakers to class. Many of the questions students asked pertained to the “how’s” of pursuing professional goals. As part of the full-time faculty now, my research and consulting focuses on career strategy. Both Dean Lindahl and I thought it might be valuable to pilot several career-focused activities, open to SBNM graduate students and alumni.

In the Spring of 2010, I conducted the first pilot. Five workshops were held—and those who attended were excited about the information provided. Topics included career strategy, creating a career action plan, networking, resumes, and a career Q&A open forum. Based on this effort, we planned an additional and expanded pilot for the subsequent academic year.

During the Fall of 2011 and Spring of 2012, again, career workshops were held and also, individual career coaching sessions were offered. Seven workshops were held over the course of the year, with about 55 participants—and, it was great to be able to tap into additional career experts from across Chicago to help deliver these workshops. For the individual career coaching, over 30 individuals participated in 1-hour one-on-one sessions—approximately 40% of the individuals were current students and 60% were alumni.

Participants received perspectives on career strategy (defining goals and setting a career plan), building the tactics to achieve that plan,

and refining the tools necessary for a job search. The importance of career strategy for our students and alumni is heightened based on the types of careers sought—many are not interested in traditional roles in business. Interests include for-profit mission-driven organizations, non-profits, public sector, entrepreneurial ventures, and other. The job market today remains a highly competitive environment and finding a role that matches professional interests and offers fulfillment is a challenge. Focusing on career strategy enables one to gain additional insights on how to get from here to there.

The best career advice I can offer students and alumni is to always take advantage of our community. SBNM and the Axelson Center are continuously offering numerous programs which are beneficial from a career perspective. Educational and networking opportunities can help advance career efforts. Also, staying connected with class members, faculty, and other professionals is advantageous. You just never know when something interesting might present itself.

When it comes to focusing on career goals, I think this quote by Henry David Thoreau is fitting: “Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.” ■

Fall 2012 internships

STUDENT NAME	COMPANY
Everly Ban	Chicago Cultural Alliance
Erik Brorson	NAI Hiffman
Christopher Burlet	Red Mango Yogurt Company
Anja Ciborowski	WGN
Jacqueline Cruz	New Moms Inc.
Kaitlin Fredrickson	Kaplan Higher Education Campuses
Kenny Garcia	Great American Insurance
David Grothause	The Cheese People
Jacob Gustafsson	Cross Town Reality
Haris Habibovic	The Building Group
Jacob Laffey	American Homeowner Preservation, LP
Russell Leblanc	Monahan Advisors
Thor Lindstam	Roosevelt PTO
Hedda Morken	Swedish Covenant Hospital
George Mulhim	Swedish Covenant Hospital
Jeremy Munson	Monahan Advisors, LLC
Benjamin Otfinoski	American Homeowner Preservation
Jessica Peters	City of Evanston
Lucas Wright	The Axelson Center

Alumni career updates

Arielle Augustyn (MNA, 2011)

Arielle recently transitioned to a new position within Northwestern University. She is now a Program Assistant with primary responsibilities to assist professors, students, and staff on grant work, editing manuscripts, and other activities. All the best to you, Arielle.

Gina Cialoni (MNA, 2012)

Gina recently transitioned to the role of Senior Associate Director, Reunions, at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Congratulations on this new role, Gina.

Scott Logan (MM, 2010)

In October, Scott joined St. Anthony Hospital in Chicago as the new Clinical Nurse Manager of Psychiatry/PHP. Hats off to Scott.

Andrew O'Donnell (MBA, 2009)

Andrew has published his first book and it is now available in 10 countries. The book, which can be found on Amazon.com, is entitled “Scripture Relief: Anxiety and Fear.” This book is a support mechanism for anyone who suffers from an overwhelming sense of fear and anxiety in their lives. You can also visit the book’s Facebook page. Our congratulations to Andrew.

Kathleen J. Sinclair (MNA, 2012)

Kathleen was promoted from Student Activities Director to Director of Institutional Advancement at Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, IL. Our congratulations to Kathleen.

BGA Lifetime Achievement Award



On October 2nd, Jimmie Alford, SBNM Executive in Residence, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Better Government Association of Chicago. This award recognizes his life-long commitment to the nonprofit sector.

Alford founded his own consulting firm to serve the nonprofit sector in 1979 after serving 16 years of working in the nonprofit sector. The firm, now known as The Alford Group, is one of the premier consulting firms in the United States and has served more than 3,000 nonprofit clients since its creation.

Alford teaches graduate courses in nonprofit management, and in the Axelson Center's professional certificate program. He is a member of the Advisory Board of SBNM and the Advisory Board of the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management, is a North Park alum, and has served as a North Park University trustee. We extend our heart-felt thanks to Jimmie for his many years of service, and our congratulations on receiving this well-deserved recognition.

Happy retirement wishes

In August, Meta Anderson (pictured on left) retired after 10 years of working as the Office Assistant here in SBNM. All of us here in SBNM will miss Meta tremendously. We wish her many happy hours of fun family times during her retirement. We know she will cherish the additional time that she now has to spend with her adorable granddaughters, Meredith and Holly.



Warm welcome

On August, 29th, Mari Lamp joined SBNM as our new Office Assistant. Mari has an employment background that includes retail and nonprofit management. She is also an artist and paints professionally part-time at a studio in the area. Mari has a BA from Houghton Col-



lege (NY) in writing and art and has taken classes in classical art training at the School of Representational Art (Chicago). We are glad to have Mari on board and extend a hearty "WELCOME!" to her.

Mark Farano scholarship winner

SBNM is proud to announce that Zachariah Massey was named this year's recipient of the Mark Farano Memorial Scholarship. Each year, the Farano scholarship is awarded to an MBA student who demonstrates strong academic performance and leadership capability.

Zachary is currently Director of Operations at Beyond the Ball, in Chicago, and has also excelled academically here at North Park. Beyond the Ball is an organization that uses the power of sport to change lives, give hope, reclaim space and develop a culture of opportunities for youth and families in Chicago. Previously, Zachary served as Community Programs Director & Administrator for La Villita Community Church. Additionally, he founded a local collaborative of faith leaders addressing youth violence, served on the steering committee for Neighborhood Sports Little Village and is a member of a local Violence Prevention Collaborative. Our congratulations to Zachary.

Alford scholarship winner

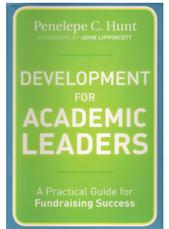
We are proud to announce that Julie Melton, is this year's recipient of the Jimmie Alford Scholarship. This annual scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing a degree or certificate in nonprofit management who has demonstrated academic excellence. This scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Jimmie Alford, in recognition of his lifelong interest in young people, his dedication to education and strengthening the nonprofit sector, his loyalty, and his devotion to the cause of Christ.

Julie is Director of Marketing & Development for Eastern Illinois Foodbank in Urbana, Illinois. This foodbank provides a reliable source of food for hungry people through a network of food pantries and agencies. Previously, Julie held development positions with Provena Covenant Medical Center Foundation (Urbana, Illinois), the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the American Cancer Society (Champaign, Illinois). Her many civic contributions include, United Way of Champaign County Cabinet, Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Board Member and the Rotary Club of Urbana.

Julie has also demonstrated outstanding academic performance here at North Park, and we congratulate her receiving on this award.

New book

Penelope Hunt, Vice Chancellor for Development at University of Illinois—Chicago, and SBNM adjunct faculty, has published a book entitled "Development for Academic Leaders: A Practical Guide for Fundraising Success." Penny has many years of experience with fundraising in the academic setting and has been teaching fundraising courses for SBNM for several years. This book is a great resource for nonprofit professionals.



Breakfast series

On October 30th, North Park held its seventh installment of the Breakfast Series. The speaker, Jimmie Alford, addressed "Trends and Headwinds: Implications for the Nonprofit Sector." The attendance for this session set a record for the series, with over 100 people in attendance.

This packed house received a wealth of information and words of wisdom from Dr. Alford, someone who has been a recognized expert in the nonprofit arena for many years. Alford shared numerous stats on recent trends in philanthropic giving, and also shared his predictions for sector-wide changes in the near future. He discussed how the U.S. donor base is shrinking overall, but that this smaller number of donors are giving larger individual gifts. He projects a liquidity crisis in the sector and warned that nonprofits should assess their planning assumptions and perhaps adjust strategic plans accordingly. This particular trend sheds light on a heightened focus among nonprofits on self-generated income, and Alford suggests that more nonprofits should investigate this as a potential option.

Additionally, Alford noted that giving via mobile devices has seen tremendous growth. He presented his view of top challenges for the sector and concluded by fielding many thought-provoking questions during the Q&A session. At the conclusion, several attendees could be heard commenting on how valuable this session was for them.

The next installment in the Breakfast Series will be in April. Stay tuned for more information during the months prior to the event.

Axelson Center Symposium: *Bringing nonprofit leaders together*

By Christa Beall Diefenbach

The Axelson Center's annual nonprofit Symposium, now in its 14th year, brings together a substantial cross-section of nonprofit leaders from throughout the Chicago region. There are those currently in leadership positions (either in a staff or board capacity). There are those "aspiring" leaders preparing to one day take the helm. There are middle management and program directors as well as development directors and finance staff. There are nonprofit consultants, and others who provide services to the sector. And there are those simply exploring the possibility of a nonprofit career.

Although their reasons for attending are as diverse as their backgrounds and missions, there is one similarity that unites this group. Their shared confidence in the ability of the nonprofit sector to address some of society's most pressing social, political, and economic issues.

Exceeding 500 annually, the large attendance at the Symposium is an indication of both the importance of this type of educational opportunity as well as the vibrancy of Chicago's nonprofit sector. However, interviews with past participants suggest that the Symposium provides more than just a great learning opportunity. It is also one of the best networking opportunities in the Chicago nonprofit community. One past participant explained this value by saying, "The Symposium did amazing things for me professionally, for our agency, and for our cause."

Looking back to the first Symposium that took place in January 1999 with just over 200 attendees, you can see that this event fills an important need in the community. Since that time, the conference has exploded in terms of attendance and reach. In 2013, we anticipate 550 attendees, 21 exhibitors, nearly 50 speakers, and 30 educational sessions on topics ranging from social enterprises and crowd funding to joint ventures and creating a culture of philanthropy.

The Center staff works hard to bring together our nation and region's top nonprofit thought leaders to dialogue and share ideas. "The energy at the Symposium is indescribable," says Pier Rogers, director of the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management. "Whether they are there to learn or there to teach, attendees agree that the Axelson Center Symposium is 'the' nonprofit conference in the Chicago region. Now, our charge is to continue improving on the previous year's success ... a difficult but worthwhile task." ■

14th Annual Symposium for Nonprofit Professionals and Volunteers

Date: June 3-4, 2013

Location: Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- **Jessica Jackley, Founder, Kiva** – Presents "Achieving More with More: How Technology and Innovation Leads to Community Engagement"
- **Shirley Sagawa, Author** – Presents "The Charismatic Organization"

THEME: THE ENGAGEMENT EFFECT

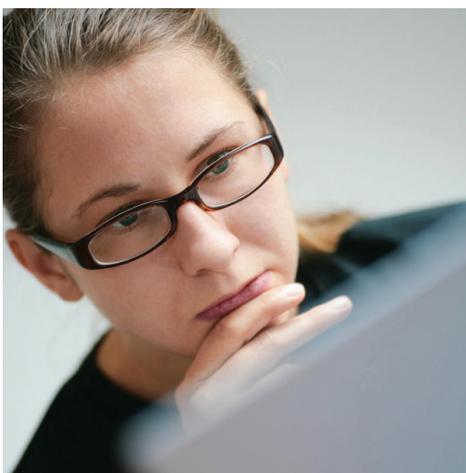
Engaged, highly motivated stakeholders—your donors, boards, staff, members, and volunteers—are critical to any organization's sustainability. But what are the drivers that move these individuals from complacent observers to passionate advocates, and keep them invested for years to come? And how are technology, new media, and other trends changing the rules of engagement? Join us at the 14th Annual Symposium for Nonprofit Professionals and Volunteers as we share new strategies for attracting and inspiring an organization's most critical asset: people.

REGISTRATION FEE:

- Pre-Conference Funding Institute (June 4): \$175
- Symposium with Resource Center (June 5): \$250
- Both Days: \$400

(All current NPU students receive a 50% discount. Use discount code "NPU".)

More Information: www.northpark.edu/symposium



The virtual classroom is expanding

By Katherine Acles

In Fall Quad A of the 2012-13 academic year, for the first time since SBNM began offering online courses in our graduate program, the number of enrollments in online courses surpassed the number of enrollments in face-to-face courses. Fifty-seven percent of graduate course enrollments were in online courses, whereas 43 percent were in face-to-face courses. This shift is consistent with overall trends noted by the Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC)

in their annual report. Online course options offer students more flexibility in managing their busy lives. And, for students who do not live in the in Chicagoland area, online courses are the only option they have for pursuing studies in some of the unique program offerings from SBNM. Over the years, students in Alaska, California, and as far away as China, have attained degrees from SBNM via online-only study options. This trend continues to grow. Students no longer limit themselves to options defined by brick & mortar. ■

Meet the faculty—Dr. Ann Ownby Hicks

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for about 25 years. I first served as an adjunct instructor for about 15 years at schools in Atlanta, Boston, and Madison. I am now in my 11th year of teaching at North Park as a full-time professor, and still enjoying every day.

How did you become aware of North Park University?

I did not know much about North Park when I applied for a teaching position. After defending my Ph.D. dissertation, I sent resumes out to various universities. I was working full-time and just wanted a position as an adjunct instructor. I first sent my resume to the School of Adult Learning-SAL (then called Gains of Adult Learning -GOAL), because I was interested in teaching adult learners. The full-time accounting professor at the School of Business and Nonprofit Management (SBNM) at the time was leaving and thus SAL forwarded my resume to Dean Lindahl for consideration. Once I joined SBNM as a full-time professor, I also taught courses for SAL for a short while as well.

What attracted you to the teaching profession and why did you choose accounting?

I really enjoy teaching. I love working with students, I love the relationships that I form with them, and I enjoy helping them learn the material. As an undergraduate student, I was actually a finance major. I took a course in accounting, enjoyed it very much and felt as though it fit my skill set. But, I didn't want to change majors and possibly delay my graduation. So, shortly after graduating, I decided to pursue a master's degree in accountancy.

Accounting seems to be such a popular major. Why is that?

It is because there are jobs in this field. Accounting can provide a way to get into a company, and then one can go anywhere from there (consulting, operations, etc.). Being in accounting, you get to learn how the company works. Having this knowledge can be extremely beneficial in the event that an individual would like to move on to become the president, or owner of a company, or simply remain in the accounting area. Accounting can also be used as a stepping stone into finance. Often, companies do not hire people directly into finance, but instead pull people from accounting.

How do you utilize non-classroom resources to enhance student learning? What kinds of resources do you use?

I do so through the examples of real life organizations which come from my own background and from people I know who work in the industry. A lot of what you do in an accounting classroom is so canned because all the data you need is in the textbook, so real life examples enhance the learning experience. I sometimes bring in guest speakers as well. For example, I have brought in a partner from a big 4 accounting firm, and also an individual who worked in international business who shared real life experiences from working in a global setting. Additionally, I sometimes bring in alumni who are working in the Chicagoland area so that they can give some perspective on what it is like going from academia to the real world.

What percentage of your accounting students sit for the CPA exam?

Approximately 20% of my students sit for the exam. Not everyone comes back and informs me about sitting for the exam, so the number

is based on those who have informed me. Typically, students who intend to remain in the field of accounting sit for the exam. Those who are looking to use accounting as a stepping stone typically do not sit for the CPA exam. It can be quite costly and time consuming to prepare and take the exam. I'm excited to say that all of the students who have informed me that they sat for the exam have passed it.

You mentioned that you serve as faculty advisor for about 8-10 student interns on average, per academic year. What kind of advice do you give to your internship advisees?

Most of my advisees are rather independent. Issues that arise often have to do with advisees reporting that they are performing very basic tasks. When prompted to tell me more about exactly what they are assigned to do, I often find that they are simply frustrated at being at the entry-level. I advise them to continue doing their best at whatever task they are given because typically, as an intern or a recent graduate, you start at the bottom, prove yourself, and then continue moving up.

In the event that I get a complaint about a student not having anything to do, I recommend that the student speak to the Career Development and Internship Office because that means that the company is not fulfilling their part of the agreement. Often times, I answer students' questions about appropriate protocol) in the work environment (for example, requesting a day off because they may not have prior work experience.

What sorts of things do you enjoy doing in your leisure time?

I enjoy traveling to new and interesting places. I love history and art so I enjoy traveling to Europe. I also enjoy eating out and reading well researched historical fiction and mysteries. Also, a lot of my free time is spent volunteering at my church, where I am very active in the church leadership. I currently serve as the treasurer, and am a member of the choir. I am also a member of the North Park Faculty and Staff choir.

What are some of the other roles you serve in at North Park University, outside of being a full-time faculty member?

I have been heading the SBNM's Research Symposium for about 8 years, and still enjoy doing it to this day. This is also my 4th year serving as University Marshal. Although it is a lot of work, I truly enjoy it. I get a feeling of personal reward, but I also feel relief at the end of graduation day when everything has gone smoothly.

We have heard a few things about your beloved dogs. What breed are your dogs, and what can you share with us about them?

I have two beautiful Havanese, Jito and Dulci. Havanese is a breed from Cuba. They both have lots of personality. Dulci is a chewer and enjoys destroying my furniture, while Jito is a shredder. He finds pleasure in shredding paper. A while back I found a student's graded exam at home with the corner shredded. I had to come to class and let my student know that my dog had eaten his exam! ■

