

Name This Newsletter

The Fox Honors Alumni Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

Fall 2007

Bringing you back to Speakman Hall

Revised Fox Honors Alumni newsletter will update and reminisce

As you can tell, we've changed the format and depth of the Fox Honors Alumni newsletter. In honor of this, we are going to hold a "Name This Newsletter" and we want YOU, the alumni, to come up with a new name for it! Go to www.foxbhsa.com/alumnicorner.html and enter as many names as you can think of. The winner will get a \$25 American Express gift certificate.

Our goal with the newsletter is to keep you up to date with the happenings in the program, publicize all the good things graduates are doing, and hopefully, to reconnect with many of you. In September, our call for graduate updates went out and we were overwhelmed with all the responses. If you look to the Alumni Happenings, you will see updated information about former classmates.

We'll also look to feature stories on both past and present faculty and Alums. You may even discover your favorite Honors instructor is still teaching in the program.

In addition, we'll try to let you know about upcoming Temple, Fox and Honors Alumni events.

We'd love to welcome you back! We have set up a new update page to make it easier for you to update your information! At www.foxbhsa.com/alumnicorner.htm, you can choose to opt into or out of some of our Alumni programs such as Alumni Shadowing (where you show a BHSA Undergrad the ropes of your field and your day to day world), the Alumni Panel (where you help tell us what types of events you want to happen and what we can do to welcome you back), or even just choose to hear about special events that include both Alumni and undergraduates.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter! If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email Chuck Allen, Administrative Director, or Marianne Ball, the Alumni Chair for BHSA, at BHSA_Alumni@temple.edu.

From North Broad to Tokyo

Dr. Leeds now Assistant Dean of the TUJ Program

After thirteen years in the Fox Honors Program, Dr. Michael Leeds' ship has departed for the East...the Far East!

Having built Fox Honors from scratch and helped hundreds of students through the program, we asked him for some reflections on his Honorable experiences:

Q. Can we get some thoughts on how you saw the program grow over the years you were the Director?

A. The big growth came before we were in Speakman 106. I started running the Honors Program out of a supply closet. It was so cramped that one of Laura Shaner's responsibilities (my first student worker) was to move papers off the two chairs so that people could sit down.

When I joined in 1994, we had an entering class of 16 students, about 8 of whom lasted beyond the first year. Almost no one took

Honors courses after his or her sophomore year. The best thing about that first year or two was that University Honors was right around the corner on the 6th floor of Ritter Annex. Dieter Forster, Ruth Ost, and I formed a bond that remains tight to this day. That first year, I had no idea what I was doing. Fortunately, my many mistakes did not sink the program. One good decision was to form BHSA. Our first meeting had about 4 or 5 students, so each



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LEEDS

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of them became an officer. Dan Chatham was the first president.

About two years later the program really began to take off. I remember coming into the Dean's office each day that spring to tell them that our entering class had grown to another record high. We suddenly went from striving to make sure that classes filled to figuring out how to open more Honors Sections. It was a very exciting time.

About that time, Sandy Kowalewski joined as the first Graduate Assistant. The broom closet got too small for all of us, and we moved into a small suite of offices in 201 Speakman. A few years later, Laura Lilley came on as the first Assistant Director, and Megan Gillette (our second GA) and I moved into 106. Since then, Honors has seen pretty steady growth in numbers and credentials (such as SAT scores) and a variety of new programs and initiatives, such as Research Scholars and the recent attempts to reach out to alumni. Each class had its own identity - in some years you heard more Russian spoken in 106 each morning than English! That helped make the job so much more exciting.

Q. What will you miss most about the program over the next few years?

A. I will miss the students terribly. I already do! I

will also miss seeing Debbie Campbell, Ruth Ost, Chuck Allen and David Kaiser every day. They made it a joy to come to work in the morning.

Q. How do you think your experience with the Fox Honors Program has helped ready you for your new position at TUJ?

A. It certainly fine-tuned my ability to beg, plead, and cajole! More seriously, my experiences with Honors have taught me the value of listening to others and of not responding glibly or angrily (a lesson that, unfortunately, requires constant relearning).

Q. What are your primary responsibilities at TUJ?

A. I actually wear a few different hats. One job is to serve as liaison between TUJ and the main campus. Physical distance can sometimes make differences of opinion seem larger than they really are, and I try to bring the two sides together.

Another job is to help create a full-fledged BBA program here at TUJ. That ranges from hiring faculty, to working with career development to meet the specific needs of business students, to creating TUJ's first Business SPO. I am also working to help TUJ's EMBA program improve and grow.

Finally, I want to be a cheerleader for Temple students, ESPECIALLY Fox Honors students, to come to Japan to study, to observe the world's second-largest economy, and to experience this amazing country and culture!

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR NEW SITE! VISIT WWW.FOXBHSA.COM/ALUMNICORNER.HTML AND TRY OUT SOME OF THE NEW FEATURES.

YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR ANY OF OUR ALUMNI PROGRAMS, ENTER IN NAME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER, OR UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION & MAILING OPTIONS!

ALSO, IF YOU THINK ANY OF YOUR FELLOW ALUMS MIGHT BE MISSING OUT, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD ON THIS NEWSLETTER OR OUR EMAIL (BHSA.ALUMNI@TEMPLE.EDU).

THEY CAN ALSO USE THE ABOVE LINK TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS OR PARTICIPATE IN OUR PROGRAMS AND FUTURE EVENTS.

Katie Gerst: Assessing her experiences

The Alumni Spotlight is on one of BHSA's founding members

When the Fox Honors Program literally came calling in 1995, Katie Gerst was listening.

The Pittsburgh native ended up coming to Temple that fall. She was impressed with the personal attention she received from the Business Honors program, having received calls from Honors staff on several occasions. But the program was still relatively new when Katie entered, as evidenced by its size.

"The program was so tiny at that point," said Gerst. "I think I was one of 16 freshmen that year."

Initially an Actuarial Science major, Katie later switched to Marketing. She said her favorite instructors from her Fox Honors years were Jayanthi Krishnan (Accounting) and Jill Westbrook (Economics). While Marketing became her passion, Katie would continue to rely and build on those quantitative skills.

With the help of the program's Director, Dr. Michael Leeds, Katie was one of the five students that founded the Business Honors Student Association (BHSA). Her name remains on the charter displayed in the BHSA showcase on the first floor of Speakman Hall today. In fact, one of her favorite memories stems from the very first BHSA banquet.

"We had it at this Italian restaurant in South Philly," said Gerst. "When we got there, we found out



the room was on the second floor. But one of our students was in a wheelchair. So a bunch of people grabbed on and carried him up the stairs."

And the night's adventures didn't stop there.

"Later, we would find out that they wouldn't take our check for the bill. So Kim Nowaczyk and I served as body guards and walked Doc (Leeds) to the MAC machine so he could pay for it."

After graduating in 2000, Katie began her professional career on the corporate side. She went to work for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter as a Financial Advisor. But after six months, Katie realized it was not the environment for her.

"My morals were getting in the way of my job duties," she said.

Soon she found herself back at Temple, working as an Admissions Counselor. She firmly believes Dr.

Leeds' recommendation helped her land that initial position. After a year on the road, the Fox School came calling. She started in the Fox School of Business as the Assistant Director of Enrollment Management. Her performance in this role earned her a promotion to the Associate Director shortly after.

Then, in January 2007, Katie was promoted to her current position, Director of Assessment for the Fox School. She conducts school-wide assessment for the purposes of assuring learning for accreditation. Along the way, Katie earned her MBA in E-Business from Fox in 2003. She also serves as an adjunct instructor in the Marketing Department, having taught undergraduate courses in Advertising, Consumer & Buyer Behavior and the Strategic Applications of Technology.

When asked to reflect on the changes she has seen in the program from when she entered to now, one thing immediately jumped out at her.

"The program has gotten much bigger, but in a good way," Gerst said. "It now provides an even greater social network for students in the program."

In addition, Katie has seen the caliber of students entering the program increase each year.

Said Gerst jokingly, "If I had to apply to the program today, I'm not even sure I could get in!"

Remember, you can win a \$25 gift certificate for naming our newsletter! Send your suggestions to BHSA_Alumni@temple.edu

Alumni Happenings

William Mitchell (August 1993) has since earned his MBA in Finance from Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management. He is currently an entrepreneur, developing a children's book with his wife, and is developing other patented products for future production.

Saniah Johnson (May 1996) is the Assistant Vice President of Finance for Delaware Investments. Saniah has also earned her CPA certification.

Dan Chatham (May 1998) and his wife, Burcu, welcomed Piers Aydin Chatham (**pictured right**) who was born July 14, 2007, at 2:07 a.m. He weighed in at 8 lbs 8 oz. and 21 inches tall (long). All in the family are doing well.



Adam Kegley (Dec 1998) co-founded Addiction Recovery Services in the spring of 2004, and is now Vice President of the company, which has steadily grown to four clinics with about 45 employees.

Raluca Olteanu (May 1999) is currently residing in the Philadelphia (PA) area, and is a Senior Associate and CPA at KPMG.

Jennifer Solonynka (May 1999) of Philadelphia (PA) has recently gotten engaged and plans to be married in 2007.

Jeffery Adamo (May 2000) is expecting his fourth child on December 21, 2007, and is currently residing in the Philadelphia (PA) area, where he works as the Financial Audit Manager for Charming Shoppes.

Jay Driggers (May 2000) is currently working in the Benefits Divisions as the Director of Consumer Segment for The Hartford Financial Services Company in Connecticut. He oversees the strategic growth of the business, with an emphasis on voluntary employee benefits. Jay lives in Glastonbury (CT).

Kim Martin (May 2000) is head coach of the St. Joseph's College women's basketball team in West Hartford (CT).

Hilary Morgan (May 2000) will be graduating in the fall of 2008, with an MBA from Georgia State University

Neelson Daniel (May 2001) started with Ernst & Young in their New York office, in their Risk Advisory Services (RAS) practice in 2001. He is currently a Manager in the Quantitative Advisory Services (QAS) group that is part of RAS. He has also been taking part-time Math & Stat courses at Columbia University for the past year. He is hoping to pursue the Math/Finance Program at Columbia University in the near future.

Stephanie L. Soondar (May 2001) most recently earned her JD degree from the Beasley Law School at Temple. She is presently employed as a Contract Attorney with Ajilon Legal. While Stephanie currently lives in Philadelphia, she will be transitioning to New York City within the next year.

Tal Volok (January 2001) currently lives in Atlanta (GA). He works as the FP&A Manager, reporting to the CFO, at a privately held travel-technology company named Worldspan.



Laura Yaghoobian (nee Shaner) (May 2001) of Philadelphia (PA) is Co-owner, Vice President and Treasurer of Wild Flour Bakery

Haomiao Zhang (May 2001) is currently working for GE in Japan, where she recently met up with the New Assistant Dean of TUJ and Former Honors Director, Dr. Leeds (pictured left).

Jeremy Ramsay (Jan 2002) of Abington, Pennsylvania, is expecting his first child, a boy, in October 2007.

Duy Nghiem (Jan 2002) is the Sales Strategy Manager, Pain Team at Johnson & Johnson. He currently lives in Warrington, PA.

GOT NEWS? LET US KNOW! BHSA_ALUMNI@TEMPLE.EDU

Alumni Happenings

Continued

Vera Landa (May 2003) recently welcomed a new addition to her family in the form of a baby girl named Fiana.

Monika Prak (May 2003) of Bentonville, Arkansas, has recently become engaged and plans to get married during November 2007, in Cabo San Lucas (pictured right).



Marian Wood (May 2003) of New Jersey has recently become engaged to Don Miglirisi.

Paul Gaspari (Jan 2004) is studying at Sophia University while working part-time at the Temple University, Japan campus.

Nate Atkins (May 2004) is the Senior Operations Analyst at Simon & Schuster in New Jersey. He currently resides in Palmyra.

John Boyce (May 2004) of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, has recently married another Temple graduate, Jeanette Tessier.

Kevin Campbell (May 2004) of Oaks, Pennsylvania, became engaged last December and plans to get married in June 2008.

Rebecca Davis (May 2004) has founded her own non-profit dance company, The Rebecca Davis Dance Company. As Artistic Director, she is readying her company for their fall production of "Helen Keller," which will be featured on the main stage at The Prince Music Theater.

Yelena Gershengorn (May 2004) of Washington, DC, has recently finished her Masters in Counseling.



Kristen Hachtmann (May 2004) is an Account Manager for CIGNA Group Insurance in Blue Bell (PA). She lives in Conshohocken.

Brad Robinson (May 2004) works at Vanguard, where he did the AIM program. He is a manager in the New Business Development Group. Brad is engaged to Honors alumna Stefanie Martoccio (both pictured left).

David Balinski (Jan 2005) proposed to his now fiancée on September 23, 2007, at the Logan Circle in Philadelphia (pictured right). They plan to be married December 28, 2007 on Sanibel Island, Florida



Jasmin Patel (January 2005) has earned her CPA designation, and is working as a Senior Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in the Systems and Process Assurance group. Jasmin currently resides in Bucks County (PA).

Irina Khrobert (May 2005) welcomed a new addition to her family, a baby girl, on June 25, 2007. She is currently living in Philadelphia. She works as a Senior Auditor for Deloitte and Touche and has recently passed the CPA exam.

Stefanie Martoccio (May 2005) works in auditing at Ernst & Young on both a public retail client and a public insurance client. She recently got engaged to Brad Robinson and they are planning a March 2008 wedding. They will be living in Malvern.

Elad Ziv (January 2006) lives in Miami Beach (FL) and is the Partner/Vice President and Director of Marketing for Dek23, a new nightclub.

Vinesh Mathew (May 2006) is an Auditor for Ernst & Young in their Philadelphia office. He lives in Bensalem (PA) and is pursuing his CPA certification.

Nadia Silk (May 2006) is pursuing her dual JD/MBA degree at Hofstra University. She is also working for Major League Baseball in their Labor Relations Department.

Leora Hafri (Jan 2007) joined the Peace Corps, and is now living and working in the Ozurgeti in the Republic of Georgia.

Elizabeth Melervey (May 2007) is an Accountant at Goldenberg Rosenthal. She is well on her way to earning her CPA certification, having already passed two exams. Elizabeth lives in Elkins Park (PA).

Upcoming Fox Honors Events

Men's Basketball Game

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Stock up on your Cherry and White attire and join BHSA Alumni for the Temple vs. Rhode Island basketball game at the Liacouras Center. Watch your email for more information.

Need a good shadow?



We are looking to start a Shadowing program for our undergraduates. We are looking for alumni that would be willing to host interested Fox Honors students at their work for a day. This would give students interested in your line of work the chance to see what being a professional is like.

It would also be a convenient way for your company to provide community service.

If interested and willing to host a student, please let us know by emailing your contact information to BHSA_Alumni@temple.edu

JOIN THE FOX HONORS ALUMNI BOARD!

We're looking for graduates of the program that would like to serve on our Alumni Board.

This would give you a chance to connect with other alums, help in the planning of events, and serve as a tremendous resource to the program.

If you're interested please email us at BHSA_Alumni@temple.edu with your information.