

## Special Interest Articles:

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## Opening Remarks

Welcome! It's hard to imagine that the summer is coming to a close, the fall breeze is beginning to pick up once again and your iced tea is beginning to be replaced with warm cups of apple cider. Autumn is officially upon us, and it is time to welcome the newest members of the Wall Fellows Program with the Class of 2017 as well as reconnect with the Class of 2016.

In this edition of *The Wall Fellows Journal*, we begin by introducing our new co-editor, Lainey Lewis, as she tells her story of joining the Wall Fellows Program. We catch up with the upperclassmen and learn about their journey overseas this past summer. Then, senior Nick DiDuro shares his experience as an intern at Nissan North America. Finally, we celebrate the current events surrounding the Wall Fellows Program and remind you about important upcoming dates for both the induction and the alumni brunch.

With warmest regards,

Jada Bynum '16 and Lainey Lewis '17



**Wall Fellows Class of 2016**  
(From top left): Kevin Hoffman, Laura Thareau, Alina Tananova, Nicholas DiDuro, Kevin Connelly, Micaela Antzoulatos and Jada Bynum

**Wall Fellows Class of 2017**  
(From top left): Jonah Skiles, Lainey Lewis, Olivia Carlton, Beatris Petelkova, and Geoffrey Guyette



# Welcome New Co-Editor, Lainey Lewis



Hello everyone! As part of my official induction into the program, I have been deemed the new co-editor for the *Wall Fellows Journal*. My name is Lainey Lewis and I hope you all will have the opportunity to get to know me better as I draft my journey through the Wall Fellows Program. I am excited to keep you all informed as to what our fellows are up to and to maintain the interconnected atmosphere of the program in the coming years.

As a brief introduction, before my acceptance into the Wall Fellows Program, I was a student at the Scholars Academy located on campus. This is a high school program for ambitious students that allowed me to attend CCU classes in conjunction with traditional high school courses. During this time, I was able to pursue my degree in marine science and accumulate enough college credit to be considered a junior. With my high school graduation on the horizon, I began to think about what I wanted to do while in college. I knew that I wanted to participate in programs or activities that were going to expand my capabilities as a student and would help develop my

professional capabilities.

During one of my science labs, a student from the unfamiliar Wall Fellows Program gave a presentation on the program and invited the class to apply. Knowing that I was going to be attending Coastal to finish my degree and that I wanted to participate in a high-demanding, high reward program, it was as if the Wall Fellows Program had found me. Since that day, I have been accepted into the program, participated in an internship with NASA and accepted a role in the newsletter project to which I am writing now.

It has been an exciting whirlwind since my acceptance into the program, but I know that it has just begun! I look forward to pushing myself past all my self-induced boundaries and improving my skills - all in an effort to grow myself as a person, student and professional. As co-editor, I aspire to inspire you as we reflect on the past and look toward the future. I request that you all read through these pages with a desire to go forth and pursue greatness in everything you do, just as we Wall Fellows are doing in our lives.

# The Class of 2016 International Trip

On May 11, 2015, the seven members of the Class of 2016 embarked on the adventure of a lifetime.



Visiting five cities in four countries over the course of 12 days, we had a rich and unforgettable learning experience ahead. For many of us, this would be our first time encountering these cities or visiting Europe altogether.

The first stop on our journey was London. After arriving at Heathrow Airport, we took the “Tube” to our hotel located in Earls Court. We started by grabbing lunch at a local pub and sightseeing. Traveling around the city via a Big Bus Tour and foot, we saw Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace. The next day, we were treated to a personal tour of Lloyds of London, an international

insurance market, through a networking connection made by Nick DiDuro. With a history reaching back over 300 years, Lloyd’s business model has not changed much over the years. Employees from top to bottom greet each other and guests as friends. Our tour guide and faithful Lloyd’s executive, Tom Poutney, treated us to a lunch with two brokers around our age at a favorite spot just around the corner before we completed the tour on the top floor. Next, we visited with Henry Dannemann, who was a colleague of the late former Wall Fellows Program director Ned Cohen and the head of telecommunications at Marsh and McLellan, a worldwide specialist in insurance brokerage and risk management. Henry discussed his life as an American working internationally and how being abroad has shaped him and his career. Our final day in London was spent on a guided bus tour to Windsor, Bath and Stonehenge. Showcasing its heritage solidified our appreciation of Great Britain’s culture and values. Although the country of England upholds its rich history of prestige and regality spanning from the Roman Empire at Bath to the active royal family in Windsor, the people maintain a humility and down-to-earth spirit that makes all feel welcome in this global epicenter.

After leaving London, we boarded the “Chunnel” for Paris. We immediately experienced a change in currency and language aboard the train. Our Wall Fellows resident Parisian expert, Laura Thareau, took lead and guided us through the streets of her husband’s hometown. Once in the city, cultural differences continued to make themselves known and proved to be the most prominent we experienced on the trip. Bobbie Maker, CCU alumna and owner of Bertie’s Cupcakes, provided us with insight into adapting to these cultural peculiarities as an American entrepreneur in France. Bobbie shared her journey from being a Lady Chanticleer soccer star to opening her shop in Paris. Starting her business in Paris was not a piece of cake, noting that France is one of the tougher countries for starting a business. We also spent some time immersed in French culture and landmarks. Seeing the Arc de Triomphe, shopping on the Champs Elysees, touring the Louvre and going up the Eiffel Tower, our sights and other senses were set ablaze by the City of Lights.



Moving from Paris, we traveled to Cologne, Germany, and arrived to marvel at the Koln Dom Cathedral just steps from our hotel. We were able to re-unite with our fall semester classmate, exchange student Fabian Ferdinand, as he showed us a slice of his hometown in the evenings along with a traditional German meal in a local brew house. The next day, we took a journey down the Rhine River admiring the quaint German towns that rested at the foot of enormous castles, each representing kingdoms of a bygone era; later, we enjoyed lunch and the views of St. Goar up close. From Cologne, we made a day trip to Bonn for our scheduled visits and combatted the cancelled trains due to the train strike to arrive at Coastal Carolina University's partner school, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, where we were welcomed to a discussion with University President Hartmut Ihne, Wilhelm Schneider and students involved in the excellence program modeled after Wall Fellows. This discussion proved to be one of the most enlightening portions of our trip. Moving on from this meeting, we were asked to eat lunch with the students in the university cafeteria before traveling together to tour international broadcaster Deutsche Welle, a German company that provides both local and international news to an audience of 8.5 million people a month in 30 different languages.

Leaving Cologne, we moved to the city of Aachen, the hometown of both Dr. Schneider and the legendary monarch Charlemagne. From the healing hot springs that once attracted both rich and poor to the exquisite cathedral showcasing centuries of architectural charm, Aachen embodies the perfect accumulation of each of our preceding stops. Our tour of the Cathedral and Old Town with Dr. Schneider and his students served as a time of fellowship and reflection. Aachen was a smaller city, but its size did not limit its richness in both history and beauty.



Amsterdam was the final destination on our international itinerary. From here, two of our class members, Alina Tananova and Laura Thareau, left the group early to embark on a Maymester course in China; however, the other five members enjoyed a day exploring the eclectic charm of the canal city. Admiring the artistic expression of a master's work, we visited the Van Gogh Museum. We toured the rest of the town in true local fashion by bicycle, stopping at the famous Amsterdam Flower Market where we became well acquainted with the country's famous tulips and Stroopwafel snacks.

Our flight home was a bittersweet time spent reflecting and soaking in the adventures we had just had together. Much like the classes that have traveled before us, we felt closer and more like a family than ever before after our time abroad. The Wall Fellows international trip serves as a rite of passage in the program granting each class member a new perspective and a new bond with their colleagues.





# Internship Spotlight: Nick DiDuro

**Company:** Nissan North America  
**Location:** Smyrna, Tennessee  
**Duration:** May - August 2015  
**Position:** RNPO Purchasing Intern

Immediately upon arriving back on U.S. soil from the Class of 2016 international trip, management major and senior Wall Fellow Nick DiDuro headed to Smyrna, Tenn., for the summer to work for Nissan North America as an RNPO Purchasing Intern, a position he found via LinkedIn. "I never realized how many companies were using LinkedIn to post internship and job opportunities, but I think it is a great way to use technology to expand their reach," said DiDuro.



As a purchasing intern, Nick worked primarily with the machinery and equipment group that is responsible for the procurement of machinery and equipment used in the manufacturing plants across North America. As the summer went on, he took on projects of increasing responsibility. "I was able to attend meetings with internal and external clients, work cross-functionally with engineers to create purchase orders for the machines and equipment they needed in the plant, and negotiate contracts with suppliers," said DiDuro. "I learned how to use SAP, which was the primary system Nissan used to procure products and services. Lastly, I worked on a project at the engine assembly plant in Decherd, Tenn., with a couple of the M&E buyers."

Having opportunities like these to attend meetings and supplier presentations was one of DiDuro's favorite parts of the internship. "I feel this experience gave me a whole new perspective about negotiating contracts, fostering long-term relationships with suppliers, and striving to meet cost reductions while also improving processes and procedures. I also really enjoyed the several intern workshops Nissan held, because we were able to interact with interns across the country and learn about their summer roles with the company," said DiDuro. "Lastly, driving a company car for the summer wasn't too bad either!" Other highlights from his time in Tennessee included spending time after work on-site at the company gym, exploring Nashville on the weekends, kayaking on different rivers in the area and a hiking trip in the Great Smoky Mountains with Steven Vanden Heuvel from the Wall Fellows Class of 2015. Nick's most memorable moment occurred on his final day when he went to lunch with his director and rode in his Nissan GTR.

Following his internship, DiDuro definitely wants to pursue a career in procurement. "The opportunity to procure innovative solutions that will help the company reach new heights is exciting to me," said DiDuro. He is currently seeking opportunities in procurement. "For me, I am focusing on companies that have a culture that is well-perceived by their employees and, more importantly, a boss/manager who cares about my career development and aspirations," said DiDuro. "For my first job, those factors are more important to me than a specific industry."

Moving forward, he says he learned a great deal from his time at Nissan. “An open mind is one of the most powerful tools you can have,” said DiDuro. “Always be open to learn new things, even if they have nothing to do with your career goals or job description. The more well-rounded you become, the easier it will be to relate to people and understand their point of view!”

## News and Announcements

**Save the Date:** On Oct. 2, 2015, the Wall Fellows Program will formally induct the members of the Class of 2017. The reception and ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dessert to follow the ceremony. The following morning, Oct. 3, all Wall Fellows alumni are invited to attend our Second Annual Alumni Brunch. Following the success of last year, the brunch is a time of fun and engagement with past and present classes. We will also announce the winner of the Wall Fellows Alumni of the Year Award during this time. This is a weekend you do not want to miss! For more information, please contact Deb Lauria at [dlauria@coastal.edu](mailto:dlauria@coastal.edu) and keep an eye on your inbox for your electronic invitation.

**Reinstating the Wall Fellows Chief of Staff:** During Fall 2015, the Wall Fellows Chief of Staff position has been reinstated and we would like to congratulate Nick DiDuro '16 on fulfilling this role. “I am very excited to work together, and I believe a collective team effort will make everyone's experience beneficial, influential and enjoyable,” DiDuro said upon his acceptance of the position. We know DiDuro will be an excellent administrator and resource for the other fellows as he takes on the responsibilities of being chief of staff.

**Call in the Recruits:** Activities surrounding recruitment for the Class of 2018 have already begun under the direction of Class of 2017's Geoffrey Guyette, Class of 2016's Nick DiDuro and Class of 2015's Steven Vanden Heuvel. Their goal is to send a unified message about the program to those who apply and to build relationships with those interested through multiple points of contact. So far, several Wall Fellows participated in these efforts by hosting a table at Club Recruitment Day and scheduling presentations for FYE classes and sophomore level classes underway now. The Wall Fellows Journal will stay up-to-date with recruitment and selection throughout the semester!

**Office Space:** The Wall Fellows Program is now located in the Wall College of Business, room 313. Previously, the classroom and work area for the program had been housed in various locations depending on room availability. The new space includes an office for the program director, PCs and a printer for Wall Fellows students, a kitchen, and a conference table and television for meetings. One of the best parts of this new fellows-only space is the ability to meet with one another to collaborate on projects and presentations. With the renovations completed this past spring, the updates have allowed the Wall Fellows to hold meetings, classes, guest speakers and other events without having to coordinate schedules or meeting places with other groups on campus, which provides greater flexibility. “As a student in the Class of 2017, it has come to my attention that we mark the days of a new era - one where the Wall Fellows Program has its own room!” said Lainey Lewis. “Although I have never had to attend a class in the program which changed locations, I know that the room gives us a sense of being exclusive and a part of something greater than the traditional college experience!” The Wall Fellows look forward to spending our first full semester utilizing our new headquarters.

**Welcome New Board Members:** With the first meeting of the fall complete, the Wall Fellows Board of Advisers has gained six new members:

- *Thomas Loehr*
- *Kenneth Leach*
- *Dalton Floyd*
- *Jeff Ungurean*
- *Ryan Fisher*
- *Kevin VanDenBerg*

Each of these members' unique expertise and backgrounds, as well as close ties to the program and a strong belief in what we stand for, has driven them to contribute to our program in this manner. We extend a warm welcome and deep appreciation as they begin their service to the Wall Fellows Program!

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