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Opening Remarks

The New Year is off to a chilly start, but with classes in full swing and various projects already beginning, the Wall Fellows are taking the spring semester by storm.

In this issue, we will share updates from current classes, talk about the internship experience of recent graduate Ben King and feature alumnus Alexander Klaus, who made meeting Warren Buffett a reality for a group of CCU students.

With warm regards,

Meghan Laffin '14 and Jordan Lauver '15



Wall Fellows Class of 2014
From top left: Meghan Laffin,
Zachary Burns, Naomi Dantzer,
Britany Higdon, Cora Panos and
Dominique de Wit



Wall Fellows Class of 2015
From left: Jordan Lauver, Scarlett Trainor,
Steven Vanden Heuvel, Ashley Barteck,
Chase Vickery and Casey Burnett

Class Update

Class of 2014:

Returning this semester was an odd experience for the Class of 2014. The tight-knit group has half of its class away on internship, leaving only three Wall Fellows on campus.

Zack Burns began his internship with Crowe Horwath in New York City last month, while Cora Panos and Britany Higdon are both anticipating the start of their positions in Fort Meyers and Washington, D.C., respectively.

In class, Dominique, Naomi and Meghan are working on various projects from community outreach to communications and trip planning.

The gang will be reunited during this month's trip to Los Angeles. They plan to visit various companies and organizations, touring everywhere from CBS Studios to Disneyland, Pacific Sunwear Clothing Stores to the Pacific Coast Highway. It is sure to be an exciting trip and will be shared in detail during next month's issue.

Class of 2015:

The spring semester brings a sense of understanding of what it really means to be a Wall Fellow for the six members of the Class of 2015. With Jordan Lauver back from his internship, it is the first time all six members have been together on campus since being selected in Spring 2013.

Preparations are well underway for the coveted international trip, which will include locations such as Oslo, Paris and Bonn. The class awaits the May 14 departure date, though not always patiently!

The Class of 2015 is also busy with community outreach projects, handling communications between alumni and current Wall Fellows, and more.

The most exciting news from the Class of 2015 is that Steven Vanden Heuvel has secured an internship with Rolls-Royce Energy Systems and will begin interning with the company in June. Congratulations, Steven!

The Man Behind The Mission: Alexander Klaus

Two years after graduating from CCU, Alexander Klaus sat down in his Charlotte apartment to determine his purpose in life.

Klaus' mission would come to fruition six years later when the Germany native made it possible for Wall Fellows and CCU graduate students to meet with billionaire philanthropist Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway.

“My purpose in life is to positively and sustainably affect human lives,” said Klaus, “and that clarity of vision is where it all began.”

A self-professed business and learning enthusiast, Klaus thought about how great a ripple effect he could create by helping students gain the coveted opportunity to meet Warren Buffett.

“I was lucky Dr. Byington (current interim provost, and former Wall College dean) supported my idea from the start,” Klaus recalled.

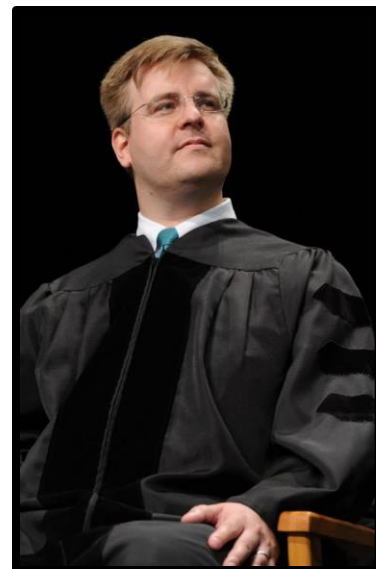
And so it began.

In June 2011, a call to Berkshire Hathaway put Coastal Carolina University on the waiting list. Months of persistent follow-ups, new connections and unwavering determination moved CCU to the top by 2013.

On a warm November evening, Klaus accompanied six Wall Fellows, selected graduate students and Wall College faculty to the Atlanta airport. In the following two days, the group would visit TD Ameritrade headquarters, Nebraska Furniture Mart, meet Warren Buffett for a Q&A session and lunch, and visit the Oriental Trading Company.

“Just knowing that it did happen was probably the best part of the entire experience,” said Klaus. “I realized that if I can arrange for a group of students to meet with one of the most admired leaders in the world then what else is possible?”

“What else” and “why not” are questions Klaus seems to ask a lot. On Founders Day 2013, Klaus was honored as the youngest, and first international, Alumnus of the Year. Upon his 2005 graduation, he decided to dedicate 1 percent of his time each year to give back to CCU students, and he continues to honor this commitment. When asked for his best piece of advice, he responded, “Take the time to clarify what your purpose in life is. Even if it takes a number of months, set time aside every day until clarity emerges... because the real value is never in the worldly recognition, but in the person we become in the process of growing in our individual purpose.”



Internship Spotlight: Ben King



Wall Fellows Class of 2013 member Ben King completed an internship at the renowned Pebble Beach Golf Links in California at the end of December. The course is rated the top public course in the nation by *Golf Digest*. During his time at Pebble Beach, King worked a variety of events and gained valuable insight into the importance of golf in the corporate world.

“Providing great customer service was always the most important thing,” King said of his time at Pebble Beach. The need for superior attention to the needs of customers is something that King said the Wall Fellows Program helped prepare him for through mingling with special guests and trustee members at Coastal Carolina University. “People don’t join a club or golf Pebble simply for the green grass,” King said. “There is a level of personal interaction and socialization that is expected.”

During his time in California, King had the distinct pleasure of working directly with Chuck Dunbar, head pro of Pebble Beach Golf Links. He worked on tournaments, golf outings and various other projects for the country club, which gave him valuable experience.

Based on his experience at Pebble Beach, King has some advice to students: “My words of advice for all you non-golfers in the business world are LEARN TO GOLF! You would not believe how many banks, realtor groups, marketing groups, sports teams, you name it, came through Pebble for a ‘business trip.’ And to you ladies...you represented about 1 percent of the people who played in such events. If you do not learn how to play golf, you are going to be left behind when all the others do their negotiating on the course!”