



The Wall Fellows Journal

Special Interest Articles:

- Holiday Giving
- Wall Fellows Take Omaha
- Internship Spotlight: Cora Panos

Opening Remarks

There is no greater relief after final exams than spending time at home surrounded by family and friends. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry holiday season and a happy new year.

In this issue, we'll detail the Wall Fellows trip to Omaha, Neb., where the senior class had the opportunity to meet Warren Buffett. We will also spotlight the holiday season and an internship experience by senior economics major Cora Panos.

With warm regards and holiday cheer,

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

Happy Holidays!

Holiday Giving

With the holiday season already in full swing, we would like to take a moment to thank those who have contributed to the Wall Fellows Program in the past and request your continued support so the program can continue to enhance the lives of students and their families for years to come. The self-funded program relies on the generosity of alumni and supporters to continue. We need additional funding to ensure the program can continue to deliver the learning experiences and opportunities that are needed to prepare the students not just for their first job, but for their last job.



Please take a moment to consider a gift to the program so current and future students can experience the wonderful opportunities that have been integral to improving the lives of more than 100 Wall Fellows. Given that we are approaching the end of 2013, you can take advantage of the tax deduction while at the same time give back to this program that truly changes the lives of its participants.



There are several options available for giving to the program, including the option of giving online at coastal.edu/business/giving.html. On the online giving page, simply select the Wall Fellows Program as the designation for your gift. Enclosed you will also find a pledge form for your use, should you prefer to make a gift with a check. If have any questions or would like to discuss the program and its financial needs, contact Gina Cummings, director of the Wall Fellows Program, at 843-349-4186 or gcummings@coastal.edu.

Thank you again for your involvement, support and participation. We look forward to working with you to help the Wall Fellows Program be all it can be.

Wall Fellows Take Omaha



If your place in the world were to be chosen by a lottery ticket, would you ask for a redraw? “No way,” said five Wall Fellow seniors, sitting attentively while Warren Buffett looked back at them. “Well, congratulations,” he replied. “You’re in the top one percent of the population.” And in that moment, they certainly felt like it.

Coastal Carolina University was one of the seven universities selected to visit Omaha, Neb. this month, giving Wall Fellows and top MBA students the opportunity to meet investment whiz Warren Buffett.

The trip began on Wednesday, Nov. 13, on an afternoon flight from Myrtle Beach to Omaha. With the Berkshire Hathaway visit reserved for Friday, students had time to spend all day Thursday at TD Ameritrade with CFO Bill Gerber.

Less than 1 year old, the TD Ameritrade building is renowned as one of the world’s greenest buildings. It stands complete with solar panels, power-generating elevators and insulation made from old blue jeans. Its cafeteria, “The Options Market Café,” offers employees healthy food choices and daily specials from the “Preferred Holdings Grill.” “It’s the type of work environment that I would love to be a part of,” says senior accounting major Zachary Burns. “The core values and corporate culture are infectious... and the asset portfolio?” He paused, sighed and smiled, “It’s beautiful.”

What was even more impressive, Burns said, was the opportunity to meet and gain wisdom from Warren Buffet. Friday began with a trip to the Nebraska Furniture Mart, a warehouse started by Rose Blumkin, a young Russian immigrant who had nothing more than \$50 and a garage. Her company grew to become a profitable family-run business that caught the attention of Berkshire Hathaway. Senior economics major Cora Panos said this family-run furniture mart was exactly the type of business Berkshire Hathaway and Buffett find value in.

“He doesn’t believe in micromanaging, and he doesn’t believe in changing businesses once he buys them,” she said following the lecture with Buffett. “He relates business relationships to family relationships and spouses. It’s all about making sure you’re on the same page.”

And this was just one of the life lessons shared by Buffett on that cold November day in Omaha.

“This opportunity was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing,” said Burns. “In one weekend, I learned more than I thought was possible. It changed my life.”

Internship Spotlight: Cora Panos

While many students have great difficulty adjusting from the late-night life of a college student to a 9 to 5 internship position, Cora Panos has proven that she is more than capable of adapting to life after her academic pursuits. Monday through Friday, you can find her hard at work researching and analyzing the value of various types of real estate at SiteTech Systems.

As an economics major, Panos is well suited for her position, which requires detailed research and financial analysis of real estate for both banks and real estate firms. While she has spent a majority of her time working on the analysis of residential properties, she has also worked on several special projects that have caused her to stretch and adjust what she has learned both in the classroom and on the job; this experience is the epitome of what makes an internship successful.

When asked about her feelings in regard to the special projects SiteTech Systems had her work on, Panos stated, “They have allowed me to analyze something different within our company's capabilities. I have worked on difficult reports for commercial properties, churches and so forth which have given me more opportunity for forensic research.”

Prior to her time with SiteTech Systems, Panos had virtually no knowledge of the housing market and real estate industry. “This experience has allowed me to acquire tremendous knowledge in the housing market and real estate industry,” she said. “I knew nothing of this subject, and after five months here, I believe I will feel confident dissecting a subdivision or valuing any type of property by using the knowledge and experience I've gained here.”

All of the great work Panos has been doing during her internship has caused her to consider a career in analytics. We believe she will be well suited to this, or any other career route she decides to pursue, if her success as an intern is any predictor of her future success in life and business.





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Questions: Please contact Karen Bisko at 843-349-5037 or kbisko@coastal.edu