Fall 2013 Commencement
The Wescoe School hosted its annual dinner in Seegers Union on Tuesday, October 15. President Randy Helm, Dean Jane Hudak, Director of Alumni Relations Natalie Hand and student speaker Dustin Laws addressed the graduates and their guests.

On Saturday, October 19, 39 Wescoe students lined up in Moyer Hall to make the ceremonial march to Egner Chapel. Dean Hudak led the procession for the 2 p.m. commencement.

Family, friends, staff and faculty were in attendance as the soon-to-be graduates took their seats at the front of the chapel.

James Brennan, former Dean of The Wescoe School, challenged the graduates to focus on the quality of each moment. Student speaker Cindy Brooks spoke of her journey as she pursued her bachelor’s degree.

Students were awarded degrees in Information Systems, Business Administration and Business Administration with concentrations in Healthcare Management, Human Resources Leadership and Financial Services.

Additional photos may be found in the Media Gallery on our website and Facebook page.

continued on next page
Trexler Library to evaluate, select and provide an independent continued with our activities with five capstone presentations. Two Chain Management concentration. Earlier in October we welcomed the students from Cohort 15 into the dedicated to their success that began with a dinner on October 15. gram Commencement. Families and friends helped the graduating distracted from the events surrounding the 17th Accelerated Degree Pro-

QUICK CLIPS

By Philip Howe, Director of Accelerated Programs

September

Samantha Angeltstein, ’07, Enroll- ment Outreach Manager, and Wescoe student Shelly Fasolka attended an outreach event at an Iron Pigs game at Coca Cola Park.

October

Dean Jane Hudak presented the topic, “Managing Multiple Generations” for the International Association of Administrative Professionals at The Best Western in Bethlehem. Other staff members in attendance were Samantha Angeltstein, Gro Sumanich and Allison Gramer. Both Gro and Allison were acknowledged as new members.

HIGHLIGHTS

By Phil Howe, director of Accelerated Programs, attended the Leadership Conference of the Pennsylvania Institute of CPA’s (PICPA) in Harrisburg. There were 250 CPA’s in attendance.

By Amy Benninger, Web & Marketing Assistant

HISPANIOLA, the second largest island in the Caribbean, is comprised of two countries: Haiti and the Dominican Republic (D.R.). Despite their close proximity, the countries are culturally unique. One difference is the dialect; Haitians speak Creole, a language derived from French, while Dominicans have their own language, derived from Spanish. Haiti is a very poor country. Over the past century, Haitians have migrated to the Dominican Republic seeking a better way of life. Many were undocumented workers, but they were industrious people who found employment in the sugar cane plantations. Some had children after moving to the D.R., and those individuals born on D.R. soil were granted “birthright citizenship.” In January 2010, Haiti experienced a devastating earthquake. In that disaster, 316,000 people were killed and thousands more were displaced and migrated to the D.R. In October 2010, there was an outbreak of cholera, killing another 8,300 people. In November 2010, Haiti was in the path of Hurricane Tomas, killing 10 people and worsening the cholera epidemic. To make matters more difficult, in September 2013, the Dominican Government decided to change their constitution, revoking the “birthright citizenship.” This change will affect over 300,000 people who will become stateless, they are no longer Dominicans, and yet they are not Haitians. The situation in Haiti is complex and challenging when one considers the devastation after a catastrophe, the outbreak of disease and the large number of Haitian descendents who find themselves stateless. How does one help? This past spring, Caitlin Stilin-Rooney ‘11 asked Muhlenberg College to hold a clothing drive to benefit the Haitian migrants in the D.R. Caitlin, a Religious Studies graduate always had a passion for travel. After graduating from The Wescoe School in 2011, she embarked on her first investiga-
tive journalism venture in Israel and Palestine. She then went on to work in New York for an art dealer and real estate investor to save money so she could assist a medical research team from the Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn. The goal was to gather data during a two-week climb to the base camp of Mt. Everest. Shortly after wards, Caitlin moved to Nairobi, Kenya, where she worked for Dormans Coffee. Her travels then led her to the D.R. With little money, Caitlin received sponsorship for six months and began working at Centro Bono, a Jesuit organization with offices along the D.R. border. After seeing the devastation from both the earthquake and hurricane, she knew she wanted to help in some capacity, so she became a consultant for ADOPEM. ADOPEM stands for The Dominican Association for the Development of Women and is also a savings and loan bank. Her job is to help those who are historically marginalized in financial literacy and credit worthiness and enhance their ability to become self-sufficient. So, this takes us back to the clothing drive. Caitlin enlisted the help of Muhlenberg College and organized a successful clothing drive. She knew with the help of her friends at Muhlenberg she could help so many more people in need.

The boxes of donated clothing were transported from the United States to the D.R. free of charge with the help of friends and family along the way. Some of the clothing was given to needy people in Villa Solidaridad, Jimani. Jimani is a town in the D.R. that borders Haiti. The rest of the clothing was divided between Alicia Milor and Immacula Desca, two leading members of COTEDEMI. COTEDEMI is an association of small businesswomen who were displaced by the 2010 Earthquake in Haiti. Rather than creating a donation culture in Jimani, ADOPEM and individuals like Caitlin provide financial literacy training to the women of COTEDEMI so they can become entrepreneurs and work towards financial in dependence.

According to Caitlin, “the women receive $25 worth of clothing per week, which they sell at local markets in Jimani. They keep a sales journal and before they can receive additional inventory, they have to put 50 percent of the profit back into the project.”

Caitlin is making a difference in the lives of the women of COTEDEMI. With her help, the women have doubled their monthly income in just six months. She is helping them to lift themselves out of poverty by teaching them basic economics. Her contract with ADOPEM will end soon, but Caitlin plans to stay in the D.R. and help create a small business development center where she can continue her work. At 26 years old, Caitlin’s résumé is already packed with experience. But the help she provides is so much more impactful than an entry on a résumé. It is life-altering for the people of the island of Hispaniola.
The Importance of LinkedIn for Today's Job Market

By Alana Albus, Director of Career Services

Now, more than ever, a LinkedIn profile is a must for those seeking employment. Employers are using it to take a 'closer' look at an applicant, often looking for things that will complement a résumé and offer some insights into the person they are looking to hire. As a job seeker, you can use this social networking site to your advantage by showcasing skills and talents that may not be on your résumé, highlight areas of expertise (including class projects or coursework research), and demonstrate your abilities in a different light...all for FREE! There is no need to upgrade to the "Premium" LinkedIn profile.

So what constitutes a strong profile? One that has a clear, professional-looking headshot. It can be one you take on your own, but be sure it’s not one with a lot of distractions in the background or has part of someone else that you cropped out. Your profile should paint a picture of your past but also speak to your future goals. What have you accomplished? Have you been recognized for your achievements? Were you promoted? Did you reach or exceed a goal? Do you have recommendations from former employers or internship supervisors?

Join groups (found under the Interest tab) that are Muhlenberg affiliated or others in the career field you wish to join. Follow companies you want to work for so you know what’s happening. Comment or post an article. All of these tips can help you to start to create an on-line presence.

What else can you do? LOTS! You can search for jobs or internships. You can do company research. You can look at someone’s career path for leads to companies you may want to work for at some point. You can reach out to people who work in a field or an organization of interest to you. You can network. You can network. You can network. In today’s job market, networking is key. The important thing to remember is that you want to continually network; you want to grow your own personal contacts. Why? Because you want to be reaching out and connecting BEFORE you really need something. Ask for guidance; ask for an informational interview; ask to shadow a professional. You will be surprised at how much people really want to help.

LinkedIn offers free tips and advice on how to create a profile on the Help tab. Of course, The Career Center can also give you some guidance. Call 484-664-3170 to set up a time to talk. We can help you through this sometimes stressful, but necessary, social networking tool.

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