

Freshman ACE takes experience to Solar Decathlon competition in Washington, D.C.

As I watch prospective freshmen students touring around the beautiful Santa Clara campus, I cannot help but think back to this time last year when I too was challenged by making the “right” college decision. From the first day of orientation, I knew that my decision to attend SCU was the perfect fit for me, and already two quarters through my freshman year, those feelings still ring true.

My name is **Victoria Watson**, and I am a freshman from Los Gatos, California. When I started school in the fall, I knew that SCU would be able to provide me with opportunities I would appreciate for the



rest of my life. The ACE program has already presented me with many interesting and exciting experiences. How many students have an opportunity to meet formally with the Dean of the Business School, Barry Posner? Or dine with successful business owners like Mike Carey of Seirus Innovation?

The Business School tailors very well to freshmen, providing them with junior and senior peer advisors, but in ACE we are given senior ACE buddies for further support, whether we need assistance with class registration, or advice on other college life issues. We have even taken a field-trip to the center of Silicon Valley for a tour of the Intel Museum. Additionally, through all of our gatherings, the ACE class of 2012, has helped us form some great friendships.

The leadership lessons learned from our ACE meetings, as well as discussions and teachings from both Business 70 and 71 have assisted me in my current role on campus as Interior/Exterior Design Lead

of the Solar Decathlon Team. The Solar Decathlon is a competition hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy every two years, in which 20 universities compete to design, build, and operate the most appealing and energy-efficient house that runs on solar panels.

Santa Clara University, along with California College of the Arts (San Francisco) make up Team California for the competition this year on the Mall in Washington D.C.

As a team leader at the start of my college career it was an adjustment working with and leading upperclassmen. Fortunately, from past leadership experiences, and the business skills I have learned this year, I have strived to be organized, diplomatic, and innovative throughout the design process. As spring quarter approaches we are all excited to actually begin the construction of the house and to see all of our efforts come together.

As you walk by the construction lot over the next couple of months (behind the Pat Malley Fitness Center), be sure to stop by to see our progress, and say hi to your fellow ACE student!

Victoria Watson
ACE Class of 2012

From the ACE Program Leaders

Spring is once again present at Santa Clara University as campus begins to blossom with color.

Though it has been a tough year for many, all of us in the Business School feel fortunate that each day we are greeted by friends and colleagues in our beautiful new home, Lucas Hall. We constantly find ourselves amazed by the cutting-edge technology, the natural light, and the great opportunities for collaboration. In this wonderful environment the Business School as a whole is finding new and innovative ways to educate our students about business ethics and leadership, so that the next generation of SCU graduates can assist in solving many of the troubling problems we hear about daily.

During Spring Quarter the ACE Program remains quite busy. Our first-year students will participate in weekly Business Leadership Skills classes, as well as practice their leadership skills during a high-ropes challenge course. Sophomores will connect with ACE Alumni through the Company Tour program and prepare for study abroad experiences next fall.

At the junior level, students continue to secure internship placements for this summer. Finally, the seniors find themselves preparing to graduate and embark upon the “next step.”

This edition of *ACE Your Life* highlights the accomplishments of the graduating ACE 2009 cohort,

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The Career Center is Here to Help!

by Elspeth Rossetti



I am the career counselor for undergraduate students in the School of Business and for undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Engineering.

Most of my career has been spent in high-tech companies in Silicon Valley as an individual contributor, a manager, and a consultant.

My role in the Career Center allows me to draw on my experience, as well as my counseling training, to help students uncover their strengths, interests, and skills and consider how they would like to use those in the world of work.

This includes helping students who feel stuck and are having trouble deciding on a direction that feels right to them, either in a major or a career, as well as reviewing resumes, and coaching on interview skills.

The Career Center is a particularly good resource in this tough economy for alumni and current students.

We have a counselor dedicated to alumni (Anne Oja) and we cultivate relationships with employers to highlight the attributes of SCU graduates.

Our services begin freshman year but continue for life.

Elspeth Rossetti
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The Santa Clara University Career Center

The Career Center supports the University's goal of integrated education through assisting students and alumni in their life-long career development needs.

The Career Center is located in the Benson Memorial Center, West Wing
www.scu.edu/careercenter
408-554-4421

Alumni wanting to take advantage of free career counseling and coaching and job and career search resources should contact:

Anne Oja
Assistant Director, Alumni and ECPPM
408-554-4860
aoja@scu.edu

ACE Alumnus Puts His Leadership Skills to Work

It has been almost three years since diving into the real world from the safety bubble that is Santa Clara University.

I recently felt a need to touch base with the ACE program, not only because it was *the* reason I chose to attend SCU, but also because it was an influential program that helped me in

The ACE program provided me with resources in ways that class projects and athletic teams did not.

both my professional and personal life.

In regards to my career, I was recently promoted to Senior Consultant at **Navigant Consulting, Inc.**, where I assist expert witnesses in dispute resolutions and damages quantifications.

I am very thankful to say that the ACE program exceeded my expectations in every way and gave me an incredible array of tools



that I used in college and am using today in the business world. Whether it was the Myers-Briggs session or the off-campus team building exercises, the resources the ACE program provided me have complemented my skill set in ways that class projects and athletic teams fell short.

Aside from my career, I founded a charity group called **Aloha Charity** (www.aloha-charity.org) with fellow alumni of Santa Clara University—including

Robert Petrini, ACE 2007.

For the past two years, we have raised money for education-based nonprofits supporting underprivileged children in the Bay Area.

From building a library to taking underprivileged students to a 49ers game, we have found unique ways to making lasting impacts.

I am thankful to be part of the ACE family.

Eric Bingham
ACE Class of 2006

Dean's Leadership Program Launched for High-Achieving First-Year Students

This Fall Quarter, the Leavey School of Business will launch the **Dean's Leadership Program**.

This one-year program is an exclusive opportunity for high-achieving first-year business students interested in exploring and developing their leadership skills.

The program provides a high impact experience focused on guiding students through the first

year of university and business school life in order to prepare them to be leaders at Santa Clara University and beyond.

Our goal is to develop leaders by promoting the exploration of interests through assessment tools and campus opportunities while facilitating reflective engagements to encourage personal discovery.

Throughout the year, these students will meet with faculty, current

students and alums to hear about the SCU experience from multiple perspectives.

Contact Information

If you would be interested in connecting with our new Dean's Leadership Program students, please contact **Brenda Versteeg** bjversteeg@scu.edu or 408.551.7146.

"You are capable of developing yourself as a leader far more than tradition has ever assumed possible."

—Barry Z. Posner
The Student Leadership Challenge

Congratulations to the Graduating ACE Class of 2009

We are proud of the accomplishments of this year's class of ACE students. This class managed to maintain an average 3.73 GPA, while being involved with many leadership roles on and off campus.

After graduation, our grads will travel and begin the careers. Their destinations, both geographic and vocational, include Africa, Central America, Europe, Southeast Asia, and New York, Accenture, BDO, Deloitte, Ernst and Young, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, KPMG, The Gap, law school, The London School of Economics, Marsh, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, and Save the Sea Turtle Foundation, among others.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!



ACE seniors celebrate four years of rewarding work and fun!

Congratulations to:

Matt Adler
Kristina Alvarez
Mark Austin
Katrina Bakamus
Christian Binder
Katrina Blanton-Hubbard
Kimberly Braun
Derek Brown

Alison Bussett
Chad Dupic
Rob Harding
Andrea Irland
Tiffany Kaya
Leslie Kincaid
Kenneth Loh
Kelley McCoy
Jonathan Midolo

Tin Nguyen
Quinn Olson
David Oransky
Nick Schwanz
Hunter Scrivner
Michael Taylor
Kevin Wetzel
Jeana Williams
Kristen Yoon

New Leadership for Business Alumni Relations



Greetings ACE students and alumni! In September 2008, I transitioned into the role of Senior Director of Alumni & External Relations for the School of Business, from my role as Director of Graduate Business Programs Career Management.

Building relationships is the most effective way to develop ourselves personally and professionally and to offer our talents and skills to help others grow.

In addition, many of these relationships will transform into close friendships. These friendships can be the very thing that sustains us

through good and challenging times. One of my goals for LSB Alumni Relations is to re-invigorate the community by bringing more alumni and friends back to campus to connect with each other.

As part of the ACE alumni community, you and your colleagues are encouraged to return to campus to attend our upcoming events, which you may find on our website: www.scu.edu/business/alumni/events/.

It's important that you help us keep in touch with you as well, so when you move or reach a special milestone in your life,

AnaKarina White (right), Senior Director of Alumni and External Relations, and **Joie Moore** (left), Event Manager for the Leavey School of Business, are here to help you stay connected with SCU and the School of Business.

whether it is a promotion or a new baby—we want to hear about it. You can update your address at www.scu.edu/business/alumni/update-information.cfm.

You'll also want to explore links within the broader Business Alumni community by joining our online communities: InCircle, Facebook, and LinkedIn. You can find quick links to these social networks by visiting our website: www.scu.edu/business/alumni/connections/. Looking forward to meeting you soon,

AnaKarina White
a1white@scu.edu

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as well as those of a first-year ACE student and a 2006 alumnus. In addition, you will find exciting information about a new Leavey School leadership initiative and helpful SCU resources for current students and alumni during difficult economic times.

More than ever our connections and network are central. If there is anything that the ACE Program can do to assist you, please let us know.

To foster more collaboration between the ACE Alumni cohorts, we are hosting a **Happy Hour on April 7** and an **ACE Reunion in May**. For more information visit www.scu.edu/business/ace/news.

It is our intention that these events bring us closer so that we can support and help one another for many years to come. We hope to see you this spring!

ACE Program Leaders
Jo-Anne, Brenda, Tonja and Professor Buford Barr

ACE Program

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Address Correction Requested

What's new with your ACE colleagues?