The theme for this edition is… superlative! For those of you who may not be familiar, let me share the exciting news: the Multicultural Business Scholars Program is now residing in arguably the most technological advanced, spacious and dazzling cathedral of higher education on the KU campus – the new School of Business Capital Federal Hall (CFH). The new building not only includes spacious offices for the support staff and the director but is also equipped with a study room/student lounge for our scholars. Take a virtual tour of CFH via the link to the right. Capitol Federal Foundation has been a supporter of MBSP since 2002.

Speaking of superlatives, our own Dean Neeli has been selected to be the new Provost of the University of Kansas! While our joy is tempered by the loss of our beloved Dean, Neeli has left the uber capable Dr. James Guthrie at the reigns as our interim Dean – congrats Jim!

Top student leadership will be our very own Stephonn Alcorn; he was elected Student Body President (see article on back cover)!

Our program has notched so many unparalleled successes I am not sure there is enough room to mention them all. At the most important level, our scholars have achieved the program’s highest cumulative grade point averages (GPA) in our 24-year history with a trifecta: Spring 15 and Fall 15 semesters were both 3.32, and this is all capped by this spring semester’s record breaking 3.38 GPA!

We had a record-tying nine students study abroad this last year, including four scholars who accompanied me on the School of Business’ first ever study abroad program to Cuba. We visited the important cities of the western half of the island touring historical and cultural sites in Santa Clara, Trinidad and Playa Ancon, Havana, Pinar del Rio and the Viñales valley. We received lectures from experts in business and the Cuban economy, many of them professors of the prestigious University of Havana.

The trip to Cuba and so many of our study abroad programs could not have been made possible without the generous financial support of our corporate family member EY. I would also like to make special mention of David and Dee Dillon who continue to make “game changing” size contributions to our program. We just cannot express how grateful the scholars, staff and I are for the generous support we receive from EY, the Dillons and the rest of our corporate family.

I’ll close with one last superlative: We will have a record breaking 45 scholars admitted for the fall semester. This represents a 60% increase in the size of the program just since 2006. The need for financial assistance has never been greater. We simply cannot keep the doors of opportunity open without the generosity of you all. If you have never donated, please do and see how good it makes you feel. For our on-going donors we express our heartfelt gratitude. Be part of history and make a superlative donation – Rock Chalk!

Bob Augelli, PhD. Director, MBSP
SCHOLARS ENRICHED BY EY: SUPPORT, OPPORTUNITY

EY support and opportunities for MBSP scholars represent the established investment of professionals dedicated to expanding diversity. Fall 2015 included two opportunities. All MBSP scholars joined EY professionals for networking and then heard a presentation which emphasized diversity’s significance in the workforce. EY professionals spoke to the necessity of varied outlooks which then allow for greater depth and breadth of perspective. Additionally, in November a special Global kEY summit for Freshmen focused on planning the path toward professional success while emphasizing the possibilities of study abroad and cultural competency.

In the Spring of 2016, EY professionals joined scholars again for networking event honing interview skills (the challenges and the highlights) and also offering top 10 skills needed for transitioning into the career world. Scholars and EY professionals engaged in discussion and learning as well as enjoying conversation during dinner.

MBSP and EY hope to partner in broadening our efforts to include leadership opportunities for upperclassmen to mentor those entering college and for freshmen and sophomores to mentor high schoolers thinking about the possibility and also the challenge of higher education. Just part of EY’s efforts in “Building a better working world.”
MBSP scholars will enter the new CAPITOL FEDERAL HALL this fall, but scholars have known the support of Capitol Federal for years. In October scholars learned about talking points and introduction tips at the MBSP fall fair. Carlton A. Ricketts Executive Vice President, Corporate Services, Lloyd Rainge, Vice President of Community Development and Akilah Scott, Senior Staff Accountant took time to get to know scholars and offered their guidance for success in the industry. Such leadership inspires and motivates scholars.

Over dessert, these leaders spoke of the opportunities at Capitol Federal and also offered the podium to Derrick Williams an MBSP Scholar interning at Capitol Federal in the marketing department. In a recent letter, Derrick had this to say about his experience, “It’s nice to work for a company that is big on giving back to the community while also having employees who care so much about helping students like myself. I also have been fortunate enough to join the Multicultural Business Scholars Program. This program has been very beneficial to me. The most important thing about this program is that they really push us academically. It’s important to be part of a program that cares about my academic success and also my professional success.”

TARGET professionals highlight the keys to successful teamwork and relationship building with emphasis on practical every day skills. TARGET has supported MBSP for three years through their educational grants program. MBSP Graduate Somorah Smith is now employed at TARGET in Texas. Her Supply Chain Management degree and her polished people skills continue to shine.

Somorah Smith wrote to Dr. Augelli to express her gratitude for the program as she began her career at TARGET, “Thank you for believing in me and helping me figure out a major that I absolutely love! Thank you for always pushing me to the next level and presenting me with so many opportunities that I wouldn't trade for the world. I'm so excited to start my new position with Target and see how much I grow and evolve. I will definitely be keeping in touch and hopefully see you soon! ”
The spring semester brings with it the MBSP Cultural Event. This event offers scholars the chance to gather at the Lied Center in the Seymour Gallery for networking in a reception setting. The setting allows scholars to experience and practice the nuanced communication of professionals in an after work gathering. Many times networking occurs in a similar environment and the awkwardness of “standing around” can be harnessed for great connections. Steve Rogers, Customer First Manager/DRM – Dillon Division, shared tips with scholars to make the best of the non-verbal communication that is expressed within networking and also in client relations. Steve and his team of leaders took time to network at tables with topics around leadership.

During the presentations and networking, all enjoyed appetizers; again emphasizing the skill of etiquette while standing and mingling. The Dillions professionals made the experience seamless: leading, sharing and role modeling. A highlight to the evening is the world class performance that concludes the event: this year Branford Marsalis Quartet took the stage and wowed the audience. An excerpt about these artists from the website: “Branford Marsalis, the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master and renowned Grammy Award-winning saxophonist, team up with quartet members Joey Calderazzo, piano; Eric Revis, bass; and Justin Faulkner, drums. Together they make up one of the most innovative and forward-thinking jazz ensembles around today.” Further, Marsalis exemplifies success and investing in community; after Hurricane Katrina he and Harry Connick, Jr. developed and established The Musicians Village in the Upper Ninth Ward to provide housing, studio and teaching space for musicians and local families. Again from the website, “At the heart of The Musicians Village stands the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, a community center dedicated to preserving the rich New Orleans musical legacy containing state-of-the art spaces for performance, instruction and recording.” Marsalis recognized a local jazz musician and brought him to the stage for a resounding close of a grand evening of learning, sharing and art.
Celebrating MBSP Graduates

Carlos Castro graduated with degrees in Accounting and Business Administration and begins the MAcc this fall at KU.

Camille Douglas graduated with a Marketing degree and will begin her career at an Insurance firm specializing in catastrophes of commercial properties in Denver, CO.

Christian Encarnacion graduated with a Finance degree and will begin his career with Grant Thornton in Business Advisory Services.

William Gana graduated with his degrees in Finance and Accounting; he will be working for a boutique investment firm in NYC.

Nubia Gomez-Villegas graduated with her degree in Information Systems and she will begin her career as a Consultant at Cerner.

Cristina Griffith graduated with her degree in Accounting and begins the MAcc and also her career with PwC.

Cole Hardinger graduated with his degree in Supply Chain Management and will begin his career with Textron.

Dani Jones graduated with degrees in Journalism and Marketing and will continue her learning through travel and career opportunities in England.

Darius Johnson graduated with his degrees in Supply Chain Management and Accounting; he will begin his career with full time placement with EY.

Cedric Phillips graduated with his degrees in Supply Chain Management and Information Systems; he will begin his career as a Manufacturing and Warehouse Sr. Associate with Pepsi Co in Burnsville, MN.

Grecia Rucoba graduated with her degree in Accounting and begins the MAcc this fall at KU.

Somorah Smith graduated with her degree in Supply Chain Management and will begin her career with Target as an Operations Manager.

Dajon Medlock (Accounting) and Kwasi Porter-Hill (Finance) look forward to finishing their degrees and additional studies this December.
MARKETING INTERN - IRELAND

I am interning for the summer in Dublin, Ireland with the Irish Cancer Society as the Corporate Partnerships Administration Intern. I’m working on their database and helping with projects within the fundraising department. This trip has very much broadened my perspective. Coming here, I thought I was a very open-minded and I reminded every day that the mind is always being stretched.

Even being in an English speaking country, there is a language barrier and customs barrier. You learn to rely on yourself more, but also trust strangers giving you directions. So, it’s a very interesting freedom. I recommend everyone to participate in study abroad programs, there is no other time in your life that you can learn so much from everyone around you. It’s also the most appropriate time to stay in a sketchy hostel (more learning experiences). I received support from MBSP, EY and also, from the School of Business Abroad office. I am so grateful for this support! Bailee Myers

SUPPLY CHAIN IN NORTHERN EUROPE

This study abroad trip was to the Supply Chain Management in Northern Europe program. It was a short term program that started May 16th and ended May 26th. Even though it was a short term program I learned a lot about how companies do business in Europe and how different it is from the United States and Panama. Also, I was able to meet some amazing people and build relationships with them.

This trip broadened my perspective by being able to experience another culture, learn about their education system, and visiting different companies. We visited a vocational school and it was very interesting we were able to talk to a student and see what a typical day is like for them and they got to hear about what a day is like in KU. The students talked to us about how long it takes them to get to school and that they have to ride three different modes of transportation when most of us in the U.S. only use one. Also, being able to see what these different companies do for packaging was exciting; some of them had machines that made the boxes fit their product that way they would not waste extra money on empty space. My favorite overall had to be the World Port Hub. This was my first time visiting one; just seeing all the different aspects it has and being so close to the machines and airplanes was a lot of fun. I would recommend this trip; it’s a great learning experience and you make relationships that can one day help you find the career of your dreams. I received a lot of support from MBSP, if it weren’t for them this trip would not have happened. Perla Torres
**Cuba Travel and Learn**

I studied abroad in Cuba with about 17 other students and we spent 13 days learning about and exploring different cities within the Country. The cities in which we visited were Santa Clara, Trinidad, Havana, and Pinar del Río/Vinales. Each city was filled with its own rich history and culture and we learned a lot about each one.

In Cuba I witnessed a sense of togetherness that was unlike any other country I had visited in the world. No one was left behind and everyone helped everyone. I would recommend this trip to anyone who is looking for an eye opening study abroad trip and is looking to learn a lot about themselves. For funding for the trip I received support from the MBSP along with the Business School. **Dajon Medlock**

**Scholar in Panama**

The Supply Chain and Logistics in Panama during winter break 2016 has been one of the best experiences of my entire life. I was able to travel to a different country, experience a different culture, and meet new people all while learning about my future major. Before going on this trip I knew about the different areas of supply chain, but actually seeing them in person gave me a different perspective.

The people working in these logistic centers have a variety of tasks and that fascinates me knowing that when I get a career I’ll be doing something different everyday and interacting with people from all over the world. I fell in love more with my major and hope that maybe one day I can move to Panama and work for a logistics company.

While we were there one of my favorite activities that we did was visit an indigenous village. To get there we road in canoes through the beautiful forest. When we got to the village the people were all so welcoming, they greeted us by playing instruments. Then, they talked to us about their culture and traditional clothing. After, they made fish and plantains for us. For a day we were able to experience what it’s like to be them. If I had the opportunity to go back I would in a heartbeat; I would recommend all to attend if they have the chance. You make great connections and being able to see what these companies do in person gives you a more enriching perspective of them rather than reading it in a text book. **Perla Torres**
S E E I N G  I N  A  D I F F E R E N T  L I G H T

The Business India - Marketing in the Global Environment study abroad program took place over the course of two weeks during winter break. We spent the first week in Goa and the second week in Delhi. Professor Sanjay Mishra from the KU School of Business and Professor Anil Misra from the KU School of Engineering led the trip. We were able to experience a good mixture of touristy activities as well as first-hand experience with different companies in a number of different industries. Every day was packed with both intellectually and culturally stimulating activities, discussions, lectures, and tours. As a student pursuing a degree in Marketing with a minor in Economics, I firmly believe this particular study abroad experience further enhanced my overall pursuit in academic, career, and personal endeavors. Thus, I would recommend this trip to anyone who is ready for an engaging and eye-opening experience.  Naba Husain

P E R S P E C T I V E

Although it was only two weeks, I was able to gain a whole new perspective. One of the most beneficial things I learned was that the western approach is not always the best one. So often, I looked at the issues India faces and thought that if they just applied what the U.S. does, then it would be fixed. Instead, India is so unique and different that they must come up with their own solutions. For example, the milk industry in India found that by cutting out the middleman, there was more efficiency and greater benefits given to the farmer. In supply chain management, we learned to never cut out the middleman because it is inefficient for U.S. markets. It is small things like this that make India a diverse place with many opportunities for businesses.

It also broadened my global perspective because I realized how egocentric the U.S. and myself tend to be; but now that I realize this, I can correct my habits and behavior. I would definitely recommend this trip because it really challenges students to step outside their comfort zone and experience something entirely different from the United States. After such a great experience, I hope to experience more cultures and other countries. This experience has increased my confidence in my ability to travel abroad and hopefully it won’t be long before I go to another country.

Jia Anderson
MBSP SCHOLARS: SCHOLARS SUPPORTING SCHOLARS

Scholars are there for each other.

Pictured above scholars took part in Dance Lessons—it was a big hit, offering a chance to get a few pointers for receptions and also just enjoying laughter with friends. The Lopez Dance Studio out of Kansas City provided the instruction and were referred by Lawrence Arts Center. Scholars also shared insights at “Seniors Stand Up” portion of the Pizza Welcome Back.

MSP also brings all 175+ scholars together at the Winter Banquet and the Fall BBQ.

This is what coming together is all about.

ACADEMIC SUPERSTARS
These scholars received GPA’s of 3.7 or higher.
Spring 2015: Breshawna Briggs, Carolina Jimenez-Garcia, Grecia Rucoba, Naba Husain, Darius Johnson

Fall 2015: Jia Anderson, Jake Bethel, BreShawna Briggs, Sabrina Castillo, Cole Hardinger, Naba Husain, Carolina Jimenez-Garcia, Danielle Jones, Alexander Ohler, Hannah Rivas, Perla Torres
HILL’S BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

In March, Hill’s Pet Nutrition professionals joined MBSP for a networking-skill development event. Hill’s is a $2.3B division of Colgate with approximately 3,000 employees globally, headquartered in Kansas with multiple international offices.

Scholars and professionals chose “ONE WORD” and discussed how that word highlighted their perspective. Scholars also learned about upcoming internships at Hill’s; Perla Torres announced that she had just accepted an internship at Hill’s in Dallas for the summer.

Perla shared her thoughts on how the internship is going this summer “The internship has been wonderful; you can tell they truly care about their employees. I was able to go to one of their district meetings and it was such an amazing experience. I met some great people from the Texas and Florida areas and learned so much. They all treated me and the other interns like we were part of their team. I’ve also learned so much from Keith who is the territory manager here; he takes the time to explain everything in detail and has taken us to different stores around the area to get a feel of what it would be like if we become territory managers. I can’t say enough good things about Hill’s! Also, thank you so much for setting up all the events we have with them, if it wasn’t for MBSP I probably wouldn't have this internship.”

WELCOMING STATE STREET

MBSP Proudly welcomes STATE STREET to the family! Scholars experienced the high level of skill and leadership at State Street first hand; Mr. Steve Green, Talent Acquisition Manager, Vice President and Mr. Pat Kelly, Human Resources Director, Vice President shared their evening and offered insights to scholars about the industry. State Street partners with institutional investors all over the world to provide comprehensive financial services, including investment management, investment research and trading, and investment servicing. A quote from the Chairman Mr. Joseph L. Hooley expresses the company’s investment in diversity and inclusion, “By leveraging the diverse talents and backgrounds of our employees globally, State Street fosters an inclusive, creative and fulfilling work environment – and delivers better results for our clients.”

DOUG MILLER SPONSORS MSP LUNCH AND LEARN WITH WEALTH X

MSP supporter, Mr. Doug Miller sponsored a recent MSP lunch and learn event. Scholars joined with Mr. Mykolas Rambus of Wealth X (www.wealthx.com) to discuss Mr. Rambus’s success in business. Scholars interviewed Mr. Rambus asking about his early years in Detroit, his education at MIT and his successes developing and leading companies. MSP Alumni and Leadership were also on hand to share lunch and conversation including Kris Davis (99), Sr. Director Business Development at Kabam; Ruben Sigala (97), Chief Analytics Officer, Caesars Entertainment Corporation and also Jyarland Daniels (96), Diversity Communications & Branding Consultant. Mrs. Daniels’ 2015 article, (rewire.com) on talking about racial injustice, continues to resonate.
OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Doug and Audrey Miller
Kroger Co.
Hills Pet Nutrition
State Street

Bronze:
Target
SC Johnson (an alumni match)

FARE THEE WELL TO JONI—FRIEND OF MBSP

Long time champion of MBSP and MSP, Joni Scheonen bid us farewell in June of 2016; she will enlighten minds and brighten hearts at the Topeka alternative school, Hope Academy. Her spirited presence, steady determination and constant focus on the needs of scholars—will be greatly missed. Wholehearted thanks and well wishes to Joni!

EY LAUNCH

Kayla Deters and Allyssa Castilleja at the EY Launch Intern Training in Chicago. “Today we are very thankful for EY, MBSP, and the opportunities multicultural students are exposed to through the program.”
Stephonn Alcorn will continue honing his leadership skills as he leaps into his role as KU Student Body President; as Stephonn takes office, several MBSP Scholars join him as elected senators of OneKU, including Allyssa Castilleja, BreShawna Briggs and Antonio Lopez-Bormann. OneKU expresses their mission in these words: “We are a Student Senate coalition founded on the basis of cultivating tangible change at The University of Kansas. We aspire to establish unity and inclusion by addressing the challenges and embracing the differences we face as individual students, working together as One KU.” Check out the website for more on initiatives coming this year: www.oneku.org

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