

Accounting Graduate Completes Yale Global Pre-MBA Leadership Program

Kimberly Foster, a May 2013 graduate of our accounting program, was accepted into the prestigious Yale School of Management Global Pre-MBA Leadership Program this spring. This highly selective, two-week summer program (only 60 people were chosen from around the world) is aimed at current college students and recent college graduates from populations typically under-represented in management education.

Kimberly is the former president of the UConn chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) and was recently honored as "Outstanding Student Member" by the NABA of Greater Hartford Professional Chapter. She will be working full-time for Ernst and Young beginning this summer.

Excerpts from her letter to the Accounting Department in late June about her experience in this program are included here. Congratulations, Kimberly! You make us all very proud!

To all:

I hope all is well! I am currently wrapping up my last day in New Haven and just wanted to say thank you again for all of your support. These past two weeks have definitely been a defining moment in my life. I've learned so much from my professors and even more from my peers. The program incorporated the Yale School of Management's entire senior faculty. I got a glimpse of the full-time MBA's core curriculum, including participating in two microeconomics classes taught by Ted Snyder, the Dean of the Yale School of Management and a world renowned economist!

Most classes used the case study method of teaching where we were assigned a case study to read/prepare the night before and discussed our opinions and solutions during class. It was definitely a different approach to learning than I was used to and a tad intimidating at times but I truly believe that I am a better leader and critical thinker because of it. Through the dynamic process of exchanging perspectives, countering and defending points, and building on each other's ideas, as a class, we were able to become adept at analyzing issues, exercising judgment, and making difficult decisions.

In addition to the curriculum, we were separated into 10 teams throughout the two weeks to compete in a case competition called Audubon Street. Our task was to create a business plan for an empty store front that would be both economically feasible and a stepping stone to better the impoverished New Haven community. After many early mornings and even later nights developing this concept, my group presented our idea of a supplemental Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) after-school program to a panel of esteemed faculty judges and won 2nd place in the competition!

When I originally applied to the program I knew that it was supposed to be global, however, I didn't know how global that actually meant. Over 50% of my class

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were students and young professionals from around the world. I worked, learned, and developed relationships with innovative individuals from China, Australia, Russia, Dubai, Kuwait, India, Brazil, Venezuela, Greece, Israel, Egypt, Ghana, Taiwan, Germany, New Zealand, Finland, Indonesia, Spain, England and the United States. Being in such a close environment where so many young people are doing such spectacular and impactful things has further motivated me to strive to do my very best as well. All 59 of my peers are passionate about trying to make this world a better place for future generations in a wide variety of fields and dealing with issues such as clean energy, education reform, restructuring their countries' judicial/voting system, entrepreneurship, aeronautical science, corporate responsibility, construction, venture capitalism in developing nations, decreasing the prison population, AIDS/HIV research, curing cancer, and much more! Each and every person that I encountered truly embodied the Yale School of Management's mission of "educating leaders for business and society". Leaving the program today, I can say that I've gained 59 supporters, confidants, and dear friends from all corners of the world.



Pictured (above): Kimberly Foster

Again I just wanted to say thank you for allowing me to have this experience and I strongly hope that other UConn students will take advantage of this extraordinary program in the years to come. It has definitely been a turning point in my life that has given me so much insight on what I want to do and where I want to be in the coming years. I only hope that others from the UConn community will do the same!

Best,
Kimberly Foster
UConn '13