Gemini Shippers Association Scholarships Awarded

FOUR ITM MAJORS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

We are pleased to announce that the Scholarship Selection Committee comprised of Nick Barratt, Associate Editor & Manager of the Foreign Policy Association as well as ITM advisory board member and outstanding ITM alumnus, and Amanda Barlow, Manager of United States Council for International Business, with the approval of donor Sara Mayes, President of Gemini Shippers Association and ITM advisory board member, have chosen Donna Kleszczewski as the recipient of the 2009-2010 Gemini Shippers Association Scholarship.

In her selection as the scholarship recipient, the committee recognized Donna primarily for her excellent knowledge of the global market and other ITM-related topics, her devotion to the ITM major, and clear future plans.

The International Trade Student Association's (ITSA) incoming Vice President, Donna was a research assistant at Columbia University's Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, receiving a glowing recommendation from her supervisor there. She also had internships at Christian Dior Couture and Jhane Barnes. As In-House Director of Sandberg & Sikorski, she managed brand development, analyzed sales and trends, as well as coordinated and planned trade shows, events and promotions. As a twelve-year old, she worked at the first European radio station, called Jard2, for children and teenagers and hosted her own fashion and hip hop programs.

In her application for the Gemini Shippers Scholarship, Donna expressed her desire to engage in the clothing and accessories needs of the blind and visually impaired community. She also sees herself conceiving worldwide innovation and fostering learning in multinational companies. Donna further believes that such companies have a huge duty to act as responsible global citizens and is one to always demand more than the status quo.

The same committee also selected Brighid Cunningham, Courtney Deacon, and Sheila Apolinario to receive the Gemini Shippers ITM 2010 Practicum Scholarship traveling to Turkey in January 2010.

Brighid is ITSA's incoming Treasurer for academic year 2009-2010, having participated actively in the club's activities such as the trip to the Magic trade show in Las Vegas as well as visiting the ports in Los Angeles. She has volunteered in many organizations such as the Girl Scouts of America and Relay for Life, walked for breast cancer, collected baby clothes and accessories for the March
of Dimes, participated in food drives for the Key Club, DECA, ITSA, and Mother's Club, and volunteered for many other organizations.

In her application for the scholarship, Brighid mentioned her keen interest in pursuing a career with customs, initially as an import specialist. This, along with Brighid’s focused initial research on Turkey, her strong passion for the practicum, and her determination to conduct a study on the parameters of dressing in Turkey in light of its multi-cultural background, convinced the Selection Committee that she would make a wonderful scholar.

Courtney is currently interning at Bread for the World, planning events to raise awareness of the hunger crisis. She was a Sales Associate at Fragments from 2008 to 2009 and an Account Executive at M2 Design by Mary Margrill from 2007 to 2008. She believes that the International Trade Practicum to Turkey will enable her to experience a different type of culture in a developing country.

Courtney is an active member of ITSA, volunteering for the 2009 Economic Forum on India and China Businesses.

Her ultimate goal is to help create a higher quality of life for the less fortunate worldwide. Last January, as a volunteer for the NYC Rescue Alliance, Courtney walked the streets of New York to find homeless people and bring them back to a shelter for food and warmth. She also organized the benefit of Reveal NYC, which raised funds for victims of sex trafficking. Courtney regularly takes part in the planning activities of Stop Child Trafficking Now. She also serves breakfast and lunch to the community at the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen. Moreover, Courtney continues to reach out to the homeless of New York City. She also sponsors a child’s education in Colombia through Compassion International. She spent her spring break in New Orleans, helping with relief efforts and community outreaches. Courtney is taking part in an internship in Uganda this summer with Child Voice International.

Sheila is an import assistant at Rose Container Line, Inc. and has settled in her role as assistant to the general manager and import manager. She also interned at Marc Jacobs, Collection in 2007 and was a customer service representative and accessories lead, shipping and receiving associate at Polo Ralph Lauren Store from 2006 to 2007.

She completed a Semester at Sea program conducted by the University of Virginia last fall, visiting close to a dozen countries and volunteering to help children in three continents. In Brazil, Sheila helped the Movement of the Landless Peasants, the largest social movement in Latin America, which carries out land reform to over a million landless peasants. In South Africa, she visited homes and taught children about the American culture and contributed to Cape Town’s local crafts market by helping to set up shop and sell to customers. In India, Sheila visited a Dalit Village and partnered with a local women’s feminist group to repaint chalk boards and infrastructure as well as spend time with kids at a local elementary school.
In selecting Sheila as a Gemini Shippers practicum scholar, the Selection Committee recognized how closely Sheila’s current employment is tied to ITM as well as her drive to succeed against any obstacle placed before her.

I hope that you will all join us in congratulating Donna, Brighid, Courtney and Sheila as ITM’s new Gemini Shippers Association scholars.