Students come from around the world to study at GSOM, so it’s only fitting that GSOM should reach out to alumni with events around the world to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

A celebration in Frankfurt, Germany on Sept. 1 at the SAS Radisson attracted more than 50 alumni. The event included special recognition of the Clark-Trier Program, a long-standing program with Trier University that has attracted 120 students to GSOM and Clark over the years. Attending from Clark were President John Bassett and his wife, Kay; Alumni Affairs Director Aixa Kidd; Professor Maury Tamarkin and his wife, Julie, and GSOM Dean Ed Ottensmeyer.

At the event, Ottensmeyer focused on the progress GSOM has made and praised the contributions of faculty, staff and alumni. “GSOM remains a welcoming and generous place,” he said. “Faculty and staff are focused on helping and nurturing students as we prepare them for the world of business and for life. We hope to help students make a living and to make their lives worth living.”

Ottensmeyer and the Bassets moved on to events in London on Sept. 4 at the Tower Bridge and Paris on Sept. 5 at Hotel Le Bristol. Additional events, which will take place in India, are planned for Nov. 30 in New Delhi and Dec. 4 in Mumbai.

Honoring Trier

The relationship between the University of Trier and Clark University is even older than GSOM. It was already in place in 1980 when Trier University professor Hartmut Waechter approached the Department of Economics and the School of Business at Trier to arrange for students to spend a year studying business at Clark.

The German Federal Government agreed to sponsor the program and, over the years, 120 Trier students have come to Clark. In the 1990s, Trier began sending students specifically to GSOM, which had gained a reputation for teaching business students from around the world.

“Since we have been able to select candidates for the program from our best students,” Waechter said, “I think it has been rewarding for both sides.”

Many of the Trier students stayed on at GSOM to earn their MBAs and “have been very successful, both in academia and in business practice,” according to Waechter. Some have become professors at top American universities and others have pursued successful business careers.

Alumni who attended the events say GSOM had a lasting impact on them.

GSOM’s Lasting Impact

Isabel Hochgesand MBA ’91 began studying business and economics at Trier in 1988 and, after two years, wanted to study in the U.S. to further her understanding of business and improve her English. Knowing that other Trier students were attending Clark, she applied as an undergraduate. She completed her degree, was accepted into GSOM and earned her MBA.

“I was really lucky that Procter & Gamble hired me as purchasing manager in Germany in 1992,” she said. “I have been working for P&G in purchasing since then. It’s a great place with great fun and great challenges.”

After transferring to Geneva for more than two years, she is back in Germany serving as director of marketing purchases for Western Europe.

“My GSOM education had a great influence on my career,” she said. “I think I matured faster, due to my time abroad from family and friends. I learned to think and act entrepreneurially and I developed an understanding of how important business ethics are. I might not have been hired by P&G if I did not have this great education and fluent English skills.”

Hermann Meerts MBA ’98, who majored in financial economic theory at Trier, also found success at P&G after earning his Clark MBA. After assignments in supply chain optimization, marketing and corporate tax, he is currently a finance manager for global customer business development.

In addition to learning about finance, marketing and business strategy at GSOM, he said, “I enjoyed the beauty of working with people from around the world, all equipped with different functional backgrounds, different working experiences and talents. I experienced the value of diversity and respect, seeing how people with different cultures and perspectives complement each other.”
Celebrate GSOM's 25th Anniversary - Come Back to Campus on November 9!

B lanche DuBois, the lead character in Tennessee Williams' play "Streetcar Named Desire," remarked famously that she depended on the kindness of strangers. We in GSOM are far more fortunate; we depend on our friends – especially our alumni!

In this issue of CONNECT, I would like to highlight the many contributions made recently by GSOM graduates to our programs and our students. Your gifts to GSOM reached a record high in the 2006-07 fiscal year. Program support through the GSOM Annual Fund, the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Fund, the New Venture Fund, the Corporate Associates Fund, the Public Consulting Group Graduating Class Gift and the Stevenish Career Management Center totaled $258,000 … all of which goes to strengthen existing programs, to develop innovative new ones and to support our students.

In addition, we received a generous endowed fellowship gift from Mort Sigel's estate, which will support a deserving graduate student who represents that admirable blend of community involvement and business talent that characterized the late Mort Sigel, who chaired the GSOM Business Advisory Council for many years.

Our alumni support always takes a number of forms. For example, last spring, we were delighted by GSOM alumni response to our special appeal for summer internships for our talented MBA and MSF students. Two alumni and the students who worked in their firms are highlighted in this issue. And, in our Admissions Office, we hear regularly that prospective students learn about GSOM from our graduates – a vote of confidence that always pleases us.

So, thank you for your help – whatever form it takes – in strengthening and supporting GSOM. “Gratitude,” according to the Roman political orator Cicero, “is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.” If that is the case, then all of us at GSOM are indeed virtuous, since, every day in Carlson Hall, we see the impact of your generosity … and we feel a deep and abiding gratitude for it.

November 9, 2007 - GSOM - 25th Anniversary Celebration!

One special way for us to show our gratitude – and to showcase our talented faculty and alumni – is to invite you to an on-campus celebration of GSOM’s 25th Anniversary! So, save this date – November 9 – for an exciting celebration on the Clark campus. We have planned a lively, interactive mix of panel discussions with GSOM faculty and distinguished Clark alumni, with plenty of opportunity for you to re-connect with GSOM faculty and to network with other alumni – all followed by a dinner, featuring award-winning New York Times business columnist and former Fortune editor Joe Nocera and other special guests. So mark your calendars … and look for an invitation soon!

We would love to have you join us for this very special event.

We’ve come a long way in our first 25 years … so, come back to campus to help us celebrate our successes and begin shaping our future … and meet other members of the growing GSOM alumni network who are doing all sorts of great things in the world!

With warm regards,

Ed Ottensmeyer
Dean (eottensmeyer@clarku.edu)

P.S. We welcome your feedback. Let us know what you would like us to write about and what you think of CONNECT.

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Clark President Discusses Role Of GSOM

C ontinued outreach to the community, strengthening of Clark University’s graduate identity and playing a key role in realizing the university’s vision are three goals for GSOM Clark President John Bassett focused on when discussing the role of Clark with the GSOM Advisory Council during a recent meeting.

Bassett cited the $40 million University Park Partnership as a successful partnership that attracted federal, state and private money, and included funding from Clark’s endowment, which was later repaid. The project, which created new and renovated housing, improved street lighting and new recreation areas, was just the first phase of a development that is ongoing.

The second phase, the $40 million Kilby/Gardner project, includes nearly 80 new housing units and a new Boys & Girls Club, which opened last fall. In addition, the Main South Community Development Corporation purchased an abandoned building on Grand Street that may be converted to condominiums.

These two projects complement over a billion dollars of private investment pledged to downtown Worcester, including WPI’s Gateway Project and City Square.

“Many good things are happening in Worcester,” Bassett said. “We need to get the message out as we market the City, and we also need to be sure that GSOM is a part of everything that’s happening.”

As Worcester becomes more attractive, he said, Clark will draw more students from the suburbs along Route 495. Clark is not yet well known outside of the northeast, but the quality of students it is attracting has greatly improved. Recent capital projects are helping and other planned improvements will continue to help attract talented students.

On campus, he said, key facilities have been improved, including a new biological sciences building, a new art center, new athletic fields and a new international development house. Academic Commons, an intellectual center to be located at Goddard Library, is being planned, and Jane and Bill Mosakowski have recently endowed the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise at Clark. The mission of the institute is to improve the effectiveness of government and
More Career Services Support Planned For GSOM Students

Real-life career coaching and job search training, a tripling of the number of programs offered and continued improvement in the quality of the internship experience are among the changes being planned in the Stevenish Career Management Center by Lisa Weiler Radomsky, who was named GSOM director of career services last spring.

Radomsky and Cindy Richard, associate director of career services, have already made progress in achieving these and other goals.

"Building on the success of the first-year internship track, we've created a complementary second-year track for students entering the job market," Radomsky said. "It will focus on teaching students how to build and use a network as the primary way of obtaining career information and finding jobs."

While GSOM students have previously been fortunate to secure internships with some of the area's top companies, such as Fidelity Investments, EMC Corporation, State Street Bank and Walgreen's, new internships were secured at national companies such as Goldman Sachs, Sylvania and Merrill Lynch. Regional companies – Middlesex Bank, Commerce Bank, Polar Beverages and The Hanover Insurance Group – have also provided students with meaningful experiences, she said.

Radomsky said the approach she and Richard are taking carries over from their corporate experiences. She was an executive recruiter and consultant at Monster, Hanover, AT&T and Polaroid, while Richard held human resource positions at The Pepsi Bottling Group and Anheuser-Busch.

"Our approach is very practical and results-oriented," she said. "We know what employers are looking for, what happens in phone screens and interviews. We know what makes a resume rise to the top and what goes on behind closed doors during a hiring decision. We're bringing all this information to students to best prepare them for success in their jobs and careers."

Working Closer With Clark and Employers

Radomsky noted that activities within the Stevenish Career Management Center are becoming more externally oriented, with outreach beginning on the Clark University campus. Her first weeks on campus were spent meeting with stakeholders at GSOM and throughout the university.

"Those meetings were key in shaping my understanding of the needs and potential for the Stevenish Career Management Center, as well as the areas of mutual interest with other Clark departments," she said.

GSOM Career Services is now cosponsoring many programs with University Career Services and the Office of Alumni Affairs.

"Working together allows us to market GSOM through established programs and help their efforts with employer and alumni information," Radomsky said. "For example, we're working with Alumni Affairs on a new program in the New York metropolitan area that will bring together alumni with successful careers in finance to network with our finance students."

The biggest initiative is still to come.

"Our goal is to create ongoing internships and permanent job pipelines," she said. "When we partner with companies and non-profit organizations, everyone benefits – students, employers, GSOM and Clark. This is a long-term strategic process and I'll devote much of my energy to it."

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Fishman Library to Assist Students

Recognizing the generosity of Clark alumnus Mark Fishman '82, the career resources library within the Stevenish Management Career Center is being renamed the Fishman Library in honor of Mark's parents, Dorothy and the late Herb Fishman.

Fishman also serves on the GSOM Advisory Council.

"We’re now able to provide a broader array of practical, targeted resources for students and GSOM graduates, whether they’re searching for their first job or making a career change," according to Lisa Weiler Radomsky, director of career services. "The Stevenish Center already has a wonderful, positive energy, and this gift will make more resources accessible to more students."

Radomsky, who is planning the improvements, said the funds will be used to purchase more workstations, databases, books, videos and other resources. Funds will also be used to support student attendance at events they might not be able to afford on their own.
Natascha Schmäling MBA ’99, who majored in international relations and developing countries at Trier before attending GSOM, is now a senior referent at KfW Development Bank in Frankfurt, where she specializes in international development finance. Her GSOM education, she said, helped her gain both the analytical skills and the diplomatic skills required in her current position.

“The teaching methods – close contact with professors, learning from practical examples and through repeated application – helped me gain an intense knowledge of the material, as well as to think independently and ask the right questions,” she said. “With the high percentage of international students, I could significantly widen my horizon regarding the differences of cultures and religions, and learn fruitful methods of cooperation in an international context.”

The Trier-GSOM graduates said that as a result of the Frankfurt event, they are forming their own alumni community as a way to stay in contact with each other.

On To London and Paris
Alumni at the London and Paris celebrations also praised GSOM for helping them develop business skills and achieve career success.

Andre Konstantinow MSF ’00, vice president of Morgan Stanley Alternative Investment Partners in London, was among the participants in the London program. Now responsible for sourcing and investing in European and Asian hedge funds for Morgan Stanley’s Fund of Funds, Kostantinow said, “My Clark education helped me learn the business tools to be successful in my current work environment. It also gave me first-hand experience in the alternative investment world.”

He credits finance professor Richard Spurgin with helping him understand hedge funds.
Jason Berry MBA '98 focused on global business at GSOM and is now a principal in a small, independent derivatives trading house in Dublin. He specializes in trading financial futures on U.S. and European Stock Indices, including the Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average.

He began trading after graduating from GSOM and said, “As a trader, GSOM’s philosophical impact was even more important than the courses I took. Clark taught me that is was OK to be different. In trading, it’s not just OK to be different, it’s incredibly rewarding.”

In managing his trading business, Berry says he draws on his course work in organizational behavior, communications and competitive strategy daily. Faced with a recent competitive challenge, he said, “I looked back at a book that Ed Ottensmeyer used in his strategic management class for guidance. Ten years later, the book and the paradigms that I learned are still very relevant.”

Among those attending the Paris event was Brian Spear MBA ’76, who founded Prothia, a distributor and manufacturer of medical devices, in Paris in 1981. Now serving as the gérant, or general manager, he credits GSOM for providing him with the management tools he needed to start and build his business.

“I enjoyed the 25th anniversary celebration in Paris,” he said. “It was a friendly and positive group. It was a well organized event and I had interesting conversations with John Bassett and Ed Ottensmeyer.”

Summarizing his experience at Clark and at GSOM, Berry said, “I love Clark. Clark gave me a chance to prove my worth.”

On-Campus Celebration Planned

Alumni and friends of GSOM are invited to attend a special 25th anniversary celebration at GSOM on Nov. 9, 2007.

GSOM is planning a lively set of panel discussions with GSOM faculty and distinguished Clark alumni, followed by a dinner featuring Joe Nocera, an award-winning New York Times business columnist and former Fortune editor, as well as other special guests.

For more information or to register, please visit www.clarku.edu/GSOMcelebration

“I love Clark. Clark gave me a chance to prove my worth.”
- Jason Berry MBA ’98
Moen Recommends Empathy, Honesty To Beta Gamma Sigma Inductees

Daniel P. Moen MHA ’85, who received the Chapter Honoree Award at the 2007 Beta Gamma Sigma induction held last spring at Tilton Hall, told inductees his Clark education helped him turn around Heywood Hospital in Gardner, where he has served as president and CEO since 1990.

Moen told inductees to the honor society, “I use my Clark degree every day as president of Heywood Hospital and you will, too.”

When he took over management of the hospital, he said, it was close to bankruptcy and suffered from a poor reputation for health care. Today, the hospital’s reputation has been restored and the hospital is financially sound.

Moen has served as president through several renovations and expansions. He has also served as chairman of the board of the Massachusetts Hospital Association, was actively involved with developing the state’s universal healthcare law and has chaired the Greater Gardner United Way and the Gardner Chamber of Commerce.

Moen provided inductees with business advice based on his experience turning around Heywood Hospital:

“First, practice empathetic management. Put yourself in the other person’s shoes. If you do that you can’t go wrong.”

“It’s important to connect with your community. Businesses cannot operate in isolation. You need to give something back.”

“Control is an illusion. You only get things done through teams.”

“Balance the professional workplace roles with time spent with your family and friends. Jobs are infinitely expansible. You could work 24 hours a day and never be done.”

“The most important attributes you can have are honesty and integrity.”

“Become involved with professional organizations. It made me a better manager and a better person. Get outside the walls of your organization.”

“Have fun. Time goes by very, very fast. Enjoy the ride.”

Concluding, he told the inductees, “You’ve selected a noble profession. What you do will affect many others. You are a graduate of a wonderful university and I know you will make all of us proud.”

Beta Gamma Sigma Inducts 28

The following students were inducted into GSOM’s Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for business programs accredited by AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).

Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, offered only to the top performing students, is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive.

During the ceremony, Professor Margarete Arndt was named Professor of the Year and accounting professor Inshik Seol was the faculty inductee.

Nathaniel Alapatt and Moon Young Yeo received recognition for the second time, having been inducted first as undergraduates and now as MBA candidates.

Baccalaureate inductees were Aaron O’Hearn, Elizabeth Todd, Kimberly Whittington and Eleni Xega. Other master’s inductees were Marcus Asberg, Sebastian Braun, Samuel Bruehl, Jun Chen, Kerry Germain, Peter Gilles, Kristin Graf, Christopher Haley, Stephanie Hallam, Ermir Hyskaj, Whitney Kostin, Christian Lautwein, Xianting Liu, Xiangjun Lu, Mark Lucier, Shruti Narain, Danielle Orcutt, Christin Paciello, Fabio Paniza, Valerie Pivorunas and Rui Yant.

How can I join the Clark University Online Community?

Go to: www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/CLK/
Summer Internships Prepare GSOM Students For Workplace

Goldman Sachs, Fidelity Investments and Fallon Clinic are the type of successful companies business students aspire to work for. After this summer, some GSOM students can say they already have. Summer internships at all three companies were the result of outreach by the Stevenish Career Management Center.

Lu Lu, an MSF student scheduled to graduate in December, worked on a risk management team in Tokyo for Goldman Sachs. Jaime Marak, who is also studying finance, researched mutual funds for Fidelity Investments in Marlboro. And finance student Shodan Suvarna analyzed physician compensation as a financial analyst for Fallon.

The Fidelity and Fallon internships were the result of alumni contacts by Cindy Richard, associate director of career services. Ann Marcus MBA ’06 of Fidelity and Purnima Vepa Jain MBA ’01 of Fallon both responded to her request for help with internships, while Lu connected with Goldman Sachs after attending a “Women and Diversity” conference, which she applied to through the Career Center. The conference taught students about the culture of Goldman Sachs and about its hiring process.

“After I went to the conference, someone in HR must have remembered my name, because I was called to schedule an interview,” she said.

Lu Lu, Goldman Sachs, Tokyo, Japan

A native of Chungdu Province in China, Lu graduated from Beijing University with a degree in finance, then applied to GSOM because “the U.S. has the most advanced financial market, and Clark has a good location and a reputation for high scholarship.”

Calling Goldman Sachs her “dream company” to work for, she said she spent her summer on a risk management production job, a research project and various mini-projects she worked on as time allowed. While she applied lessons she had learned from her finance classes, she said she found that communication skills were especially important.

She worked in a team that included three people from Japan and one each from Great Britain, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Netherlands and the United States. In spite of their different backgrounds, they were able to communicate, because “everyone speaks very good English.”

“If you’re working in an investment bank, you need communication and interpersonal skills,” she said, “because you’re constantly communicating with traders.”

“It was a good opportunity to learn a new market,” Lu said. “Because Tokyo is at the center of the Asian market, I got a good view of the whole Asian market. It was a good opportunity to learn more about myself and to be exposed to a new work environment.”

She said she benefited not only from the work experience, but from improved self-confidence.

Jamie Marak, Fidelity Investments, Marlboro, Mass.

Marak came to GSOM from her home in Megalaya, India after a graduate told her about the program. As a finance student, one of the attractions of GSOM for her was its internship program.

She found out about Fidelity’s internship opening while online late one evening and decided to apply immediately, finishing her application in the early hours of the next morning. That proved fortunate, as she found out the next day that Fidelity was not accepting any more applications.

“Fidelity is a great company,” she said. “I like the work culture. Everyone there has a really good work ethic and is very professional. At Fidelity, things are done right.”

What was most interesting to Marak was seeing how her work researching mutual fund information, such as fund benchmarks, fit into the organization’s long-term strategy.

“I went to an all-hands meeting where the vice president was trying to make everyone understand how this standardization of data would help Fidelity remain competitive,” she said. “My ‘CEO Strategy’ classes taught me how to look at where the organization is moving – it helped give me a macro look at the organization in relation to the industry.”


Shodan Suvarna earned her undergraduate degree in electronic engineering from Finolex Academy of Management and Technology in Mumbai, India and worked as an engineer at HCL Systems in Mumbai for three years before coming to GSOM last year to pursue an MBA with a concentration in finance.

He was hired as an intern by Fallon’s Financial Analysis and Planning Department, where he reported to the senior financial analyst and director of financial planning.

“At first, I did a lot of work on budgeting, a lot of forecasting,” he said, “then I worked on a cost-benefit analysis and analyzed physician compensation from last year to help determine what compensation should be next year. Everything was in real time, which makes it different from the classroom.”

While he had to learn new software and work to make tight deadlines, his biggest challenge was adjusting to the U.S. work culture.

“In India, you don’t call your boss by his first name,” according to Suvarna. “You stand up when anyone who is elder to you walks by and shake his hand.”

He tried that approach with his supervisor at Fallon and had to be told to stop three times before he finally made the adjustment.

Like Marak and Lu, Suvarna believes the biggest payoff from his internship will take place later. They all believe the practical experiences and contacts gained from their summer internships will help them find jobs when they graduate.
Marie Arnoux MBA ’99 is an account executive for IMS Health, a global provider of pharmaceutical market intelligence … Marie Bordarier MBA ’99 is deputy manager of Pierre Hermé Paris, a gourmet bakery and chocolate retailer with locations in Japan and France … Dietmar Dumlich MBA ’84 is deputy head of the Division for Structured RDI Finance at European Investment Bank … Cem Oztoprak MBA ’96 is a finance manager with Nortel Communications in London … Christine Ravanat MBA ’91 does strategic planning for the Accor Group, the leading European hotel chain and the global leader in corporate services … Petra Neumann-Rumpf MBA ’91 is vice president of strategic marketing for Capgemini, an IT services and business consultancy, specializing in life sciences and manufacturing. She has worked in London, Paris, the U.S., South Africa, Netherlands, Russia and Ukraine … Esra Soner MBA ’98 is manager of corporate planning for Renault. She earned an advanced degree from the Sorbonne as part of a GSOM exchange program … Marc Steffens MBA ’99 works in corporate development at DB Fernverkehr AG, which operates all InterCity-Express and InterCity trains in Germany, as well as several EuroCity trains throughout Europe … Olivier Vins MBA ’02 is a consultant at McKinsey & Company in Frankfurt, dealing with financial institutions and private equity firms. He is currently on leave to pursue a Ph.D. in banking and finance … Michael Wichterich MBA ’89 is managing director of Wichterich GmbH, a building supply firm in Germany.

Student Honored

Hang Zhang, a Clark business student, was awarded a Steinbrecher Fellowship of $1,900 from Clark University. Zhang spent the past summer examining corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the People’s Republic of China to learn about businesses that have expressed a commitment to sustainable economic development, and to working with their employees and the local community to improve the quality of life. He interviewed workers at Microsoft and China Telecom, as well as Chinese college students to compare their degree of awareness of CSR and their perceptions of it.

Faculty & Staff Notes

Management professor Laura Graves, is part of a multi-university, international research team organized by the Center for Creative Leadership to conduct the “World Leadership Survey,” which will provide a window into the differing images and issues of leadership and leadership development in different parts of the world. Graves will focus on work-life issues, including workaholism … assistant management professor Jing Zhang will work with colleagues from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to research the role of digital technology in helping individual nations respond to public problems and work together to address transnational problems. The project is hosted by the Center for Technology in Government at SUNY-Albany and is funded by the National Science Foundation. Zhang’s group will test new models of cooperation and collaboration for working across geographic and political boundaries, presidential and parliamentary systems, and advanced and developing economies.

Camara Named “Woman Of Distinction”

Paula Camara, senior management counselor for the Small Business Development Center, was one of 10 women recognized recently by the Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce and WSRS radio 96.1 FM as “Women of Distinction.” Camara was recognized for the one-on-one management business assistance she has provided to business owners as an SBDC counselor. For the past eight years, she has also been serving the business community through Chambers of Commerce, including the Marlborough Regional, Wachusett and Middlesex West chambers. Her clients have been recipients of the Marlborough Regional Chamber’s Small Business of the Year Award for each of the past five years.

“We are happy to have Paula Camara on our team as an ambassador for the business community,” said Susanne Morreale Leeber, president and CEO of the Marlborough chamber.

President’s Message (continued from page 2)

other institutions in addressing major social concerns, such as education reform, environmental sustainability, access to healthcare, international development, and the welfare of children and families.

GSOM, Clark’s only professional college, plays an important role in improving the image and awareness of Clark, Bassett added, because “GSOM is one of the few places where, by definition, we are making a connection between a liberal education and a real-world skill set.”