Welcome to Cohort 5!

In late August the 5th group of new SE students arrived for a campus orientation followed by a weekend retreat. Their off-site get-away was planned by Cohort 4 students and hosted by Professor Joe Eldridge at his Shenandoah Mountain cabin.

At orientation, entering students also were paired up and received their Plunge consulting assignments. This year the pairs are helping solve problems for local social enterprises including Accountability Lab, Appropriate IT, Aspen Institute, GoodWorld, Heartbeat, LearnServe International, ProInspire, and WEConnect International. One third of these clients are SE alums.

The entering cohort is our most diverse and most experienced. They are our most international group ever, coming from El Salvador, India, Kosovo, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Paraguay, and Switzerland – as well as Maine and Virginia. About a third of them are outside fellowship awardees – Atlantic Council, Fulbright, and Rangel.

Two of our incoming students already hold Masters degrees. Some have had private sector careers in information technology, telecommunications, and journalism; others have worked at the State Department, the UN, and for the Government of Paraguay. One worked for the Chancellor of DC Public Schools. Several students have already founded social enterprises, and are using the program as an incubator and accelerator for them.

SE second year student, Khavi Homsombath asked his fellow students how they were connecting what they did in the program to their career plans. He put their answers in this short video.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZnYuWxawOU
SE Students in Action

U.S. AMBASSADOR COMMENDS UN DAY WITH BASEBALL

M. Irfan Ahmad
New Delhi Today

U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations at a baseball tournament at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chandigarh. This day of games, sponsored by New Delhi Little League and Grand Slam Baseball featured teams from several schools around New Delhi — including Modern School, Barakhamba Road, Pathways, and Delhi Public School — and players aged 9 to 16. During a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking United Nations Day, the Ambassador remarked, “Sharing the field today I see young people from the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, South Korea, Latin America, and of course many students from India, all playing this great game. It's wonderful how sports bring people from across the world together. He also noted that baseball was the theme of this year's 4th of July celebration at Rosary College in Pune. Shri. Khairul Laskar, Director, UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan added, “I believe wholeheartedly in sports as a medium for bringing out the best in children. The United Nations promotes sports for peace and development and we at UNICEF have taken successful strides in many parts of India, in football and cricket. As such, we are so happy that on UN's 70th birthday, we can share baseball with the team.”

U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma & Gurmat Sahani (Founder - Grand Slam Baseball)

Gurmat Sahani (Cohort 5) founder of Grand Slam Baseball in New Delhi was recognized by the US Ambassador to India on UN Day. • Colin Rice (Cohort 4) is with Maria Otero, former US Undersecretary of State and CEO of ACCION, during his summer internship at Banco Sol in La Paz, Bolivia • Magali Caceres (Cohort 5) speaking in the UN General Assembly Hall, August 20th.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9eYL0dn3jU&app=desktop
Congratulations to alumna Taryn Bird!

Taryn Bird, a 2015 graduate of the Social Enterprise Program, was part of the Kate Spade & Company team acknowledged on October 13th by the US Chamber of Commerce. Their On Purpose program, which invests in women’s economic transformation in Rwanda by providing employment and social services, won the Chamber’s Best Economic Empowerment Award.

This project was the subject of Taryn’s capstone practicum, and also involves another SE alumnus, Andreas Vailakis.

Welcome Professor Sachs!

This fall Nancy Sachs officially joined SIS as a full-time faculty member. She has taught in the program since its inception - now we’ll get to see more of her. She has been on the faculty of AU’s business school and associate director of their Center for Business Communication. Nancy, who has a doctorate from University of Maryland and Masters degrees from Case Western Reserve and University of Chicago, specializes in leadership, especially its cross-cultural aspects. She has also taught at universities in Australia, China and Spain, and has developed the first-ever course in the ethics of social entrepreneurship.

Social Enterprise Events

In May the SE Program co-hosted with alumnus Federico de Jesus a panel discussion on Social Enterprise in Puerto Rico in the SIS Founders Room. A standing-room-only crowd of 120 attended to hear panelists involved with foundations, social enterprises, the Puerto Rican Diaspora, and a San Juan entrepreneurship incubator. Joined by the CEO of Partners of the Americas, they discussed positive ways social enterprise could help the island deal with its pressing economic challenges.

During the Fall Semester the Program sponsored two workshops attended by current and prospective students, alumni, and practitioners.

• One was at our entrepreneurship incubator partner, 1776, in downtown DC. Organized by Cohort 3 student Lina Guerrero, it was called “Management 101” and covered the basics of delegation, goal setting, and time management. It included a spirited panel discussion with experienced managers drawn from SE students, alumni, a local start-up, and the Inter-American Development Bank. About half of our inaugural first cohort attended, as well as many other DC-based alumni.

• The other was a well-received public workshop on design thinking held on campus. It was developed and delivered by three Cohort 4 students as a project for their class on innovation techniques: Rachel Fauber, Sundas Liaqat, and Kateland Oakes.
SE May graduates celebrating  • Founders Room sell-out audience for “Social Enterprise in Puerto Rico” • Puerto Rico panel moderated by Federico de Jesus • Management 101 panel at 1776 Boardroom • Faculty, student and alumni discussion at Management 101 • Lina Guerrero and her Management 101 panelists • Ideation at Introduction to Design Thinking • Design Thinking workshop participants.
SE People On The Move

This year’s Global Entrepreneurship Week Program will include two SE alumnae on its panel discussions. Taryn Bird (Cohort 2) and Kate McElligott (Cohort 1) will discuss their experiences at Kate Spade and the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs respectively.

Melissa Bradley, who teaches SE students impact investing, has been appointed Director of Kogod School of Business Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Innovation Initiative.

SE students and alums were busy fall conference attenders: Taryn Bird (Cohort 2) and Miriam Mehti (Cohort 4) were at the Columbia Business School Social Enterprise Conference. Miriam was joined by Sundas Liquat (Cohort 4) and Sarah Oakes (Cohort 5) at the Net Impact Annual Conference in Seattle, where Erin Houston (Cohort 3) moderated a panel. Erin led a discussion of: “Is CSR the next wave in international development?”

Two Cohort 5 students managed to work quick trips to Europe into their fall schedules. Maga Caceres was part of the UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris, and Annea Hapciu traveled to Barcelona, Lisbon, Madrid and Paris to build support for Global Girl Media Balkans.

Four SE students taught at Summerfuel’s program for high schoolers on social entrepreneurship. Alessandra Clará (Cohort 3) and Miles Makdisi (Cohort 4) were at Stanford, and Sundas Liquat and Miriam Mehti (both Cohort 4) taught on the Yale campus. Khavi Homsonbath (also Cohort 4) taught social enterprise to a group of Southeast Asians, ages 18-24, at a program sponsored by Young Southeast Asian Youth Leadership Initiative in Missoula, Montana.

Alessandra and Miles also made a lively and well-received presentation on design thinking at the annual meeting of the Development Management Network hosted by SIS International Development professor David Hirschmann.

The family philanthropy Cohort 4’s Michael Cobb directs is now called the Bodhi Foundation. Michael oversaw a strategic planning initiative resulting in a change of focus for the foundation.

Stephanie Fischer, SE faculty member, spoke on social entrepreneurship at Principia College’s Public Affairs Conference. She also visited Lahore, Pakistan this summer as part of our involvement with the Pakistan Women Entrepreneurship Project.

Seth Goldman, speaker at SE events and classes, and co-founder of Honest Tea, will become chair of Beyond Meat, an LA start-up whose plant-based product mimics the taste and protein value of meat. Seth will still work part-time at Honest Tea, which is now part of the Coca-Cola portfolio.

Kate Hufnagel (Cohort 4) presented a paper titled The Divergent Paths of Graffiti Institutions in the United States and Brazil in San Juan, Puerto Rico, at the Latin American Studies conference. Her fellow Cohort 4 student, Kateland Oakes, is following her path and has been invited to present a
paper on the subject of her practicum research – scaling biogas projects in emerging markets – at the upcoming San Diego conference of the Coalition for Renewable Gas.

Practitioner affiliates David Kyle and Vivian Vasallo are both having exciting times abroad. After 13 years of visits to Kenya, David finally found time for his first safari; and Vivian took a year-long sabbatical from her job as VP Housing at AARP Foundation to study how Europe tackles housing and related urban challenges from her new base in Barcelona.

Miles Makdisi (Cohort 4) has started working as a development officer at Playworks.

Stephanie Navarrete (Cohort 2) has joined the higher education world as an Advisor/Lecturer at U. of Texas El Paso’s School of Business. She plans to develop workshops and teach classes in social entrepreneurship. Also in the education realm, Jennifer Hartzell (Cohort 1) teaches at the Success Academy Charter Schools in New York City.

On May 12th Jessica Nehrbass (Cohort 2) became the proud mother of Belén. Her daughter’s name means “Bethlehem” in Spanish. She reports she is making good use of her grad school class presentation on how to have both a career and family. Jessica hasn’t neglected her career interest in furthering the field of social enterprise. She recently co-authored a report on the state of the impact economy in Louisiana. Read it at:  
This is an excellent guide on how to grow a supportive ecosystem for benefit-organizations, and will make its way on to Social Enterprise course readings lists.

Faculty member Lisa Nitze has just been appointed Executive Director of Social Venture Partners Seattle, a major stimulator of philanthropic investment in the Pacific Northwest. This and plans for a book about “catalytic companies” - ones that have excellent financial returns by changing lives for the better – are forcing her to put her teaching here and at University of Washington on hold for a little while.

The business Erin Houston (Cohort 3) launched as her SE Practicum project, Lively, is now incorporated.

Heartbeat, the organization of young Israeli and Palestinian musicians founded by Cohort 2 member Aaron Shneyer, is planning three international tours in 2016. Heartbeat has also launched a program for post-high school musicians to support the development of both their musical and activist talents. Heartbeat is a Bodhi Foundation grantee.

Goodweave’s child labor-free certified rugs are now available at Target Stores. This DC social enterprise, funded by last year’s co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is led by Practitioner Affiliate Nina Smith. An SE class student project helped Goodweave identify ways to expand the number of retail outlets carrying its rugs.

Sara Telzer (Cohort 1) is working as a Programs Manager at Zapata Ranch, a nature conservancy in Colorado.

Bob Tomasko, SE Program Director, spoke on leadership at the International Young Leaders Assembly conference at the World Bank. The IYLA meeting’s organizers included Maga Caceres.
We welcome SIS Professor **Krista Tuomi** to the SE Program. In the spring semester she will be teaching a new course she developed about crowdfunding, building on her extensive experience in entrepreneurship and investing.

Cohort 1 alumna **Stevie Valdez** developed a toolkit to help clean cooking enterprises grow and scale their impact. Stevie works at the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves; her SE Practicum identified ways to reduce investment risks in clean cooking in East Africa.

Stevie enlisted two Cohort 4 students, **Miles Makdisi** and **Katerial Oakes** in the creation of the toolkit. This was their “entry-to-the-SE Program” Plunge project. Check it out at: [https://cleancookstoves.org/binary-data/RESOURCE/file/000/000/336-1.pdf](https://cleancookstoves.org/binary-data/RESOURCE/file/000/000/336-1.pdf)

---

**The Washington Post**

May 14, 2015 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: *Can a Device Quantify Joy or Ethics?*

Wearable tech promises that generations of Americans will be able to measure, quantify, evaluate and record every breath, every step, every minute of slumber or every calorie consumed or burned. Even moods can now be subject to scrutiny by finely tuned electronic devices.

One great leap forward would be an apparatus that alerts us to a system failure of our moral compasses. It would tell us when we engage in behaviors that depersonalize, exploit or take advantage of others. It would beep when we are verbally, physically or sexually harassing others. It would also let us know when we are being empathetic, compassionate or loving to spouses, children, family, friends — or even strangers. In other words, these devices would help us cultivate our ethical centers. I am waiting — in fact, our broken and suffering world is waiting.

- **Joe Eldridge, Washington** (co-founder and faculty member of the American University Social Enterprise Program)
August 5, 2015  11:58AM

President Obama speaking in the SIS Atrium to American University faculty and students about the nuclear arms pact negotiated with Iran

https://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2015/08/05/president-speaks-iran-nuclear-deal-american-university

This is President Obama’s second speech in our atrium – the first, in 2010 just after our building opened, was his major address on immigration reform.

For more information about the American University Social Enterprise Program, visit:

http://www.american.edu/sis/socialenterprise/

Or contact Robert Tomasko, the Program Director at
tomasko@american.edu