Student Spotlight
Kaleb Williams in Zambia
By Hillary Rogers

During the 2016 winter quarter, recent graduate Kaleb Williams traveled to the African country of Zambia. During his three months there, he worked in the accounting office at Lusaka Eye Hospital as well as helping out a fellow colleague with the Chalala Mission Project. I was able to correspond with Kaleb after he got back and learn all about his adventures.

What inspired you to take this journey in Zambia?
“Ultimately, what inspired me was the opportunity to do something abnormal... I walked into Dean Montes' office one day and he said, ‘Kaleb, this job is made for you! You need to do this.’ He gave me the contact information for Travis Sandefur, who I worked closely with, and after an interview at a Starbucks in Portland, I was on my way.”
What was your job title/description?
“I worked as a business fellow, which involved working in an accounting office at Lusaka Eye Hospital and teaming with Travis on the Chalala Project. The Chalala Project is the beginning steps of building a multi-specialty hospital in Lusaka.”

What was your favorite part about working over there?
“Getting to experience a whole other culture is something that I’ll never forget. My favorite part of working over there was definitely interacting with the locals and getting to understand their culture.”

What was one challenge that you faced while working/living over there?
“I was trying to make changes in the organization, which became a great task because nobody likes change. However, once I could get the Senior Accountant on board, it would be a lot easier. In fact, the way their culture goes is that the oldest person in the company has a ton of influence even in a practice they know nothing about. So I would need to get him, a maintenance man, on board even for day to day operations in the accounting office.”

What is your top memory/story that you will never forget?
“Visiting Victoria Falls and getting to go on a safari was absolutely incredible. Travis and I got surrounded by baboons at one point and the hotel we stayed at was in a reserve, so giraffes and zebras were right outside my hotel room door.

What lessons did you learn from your experience?
“Learning how to manage people by teaching them, instead of forcing change, was incredibly useful. Another lesson I learned was to never carry a lot of cash on me in a third world country because you’ll likely get it stolen (not that I had that happen, but I had people try).

Students like Kaleb represent the values and mission of the School of Business. We are proud of the hard work and lasting impression that Kaleb contributed with his time in Zambia, and hope that many more students will be encouraged to pursue life-changing opportunities like this.
Fall 2016 Colloquium

This quarter the School of Business was fortunate to have two outstanding guest speakers for our departmental colloquium, Ken Peterson and Rachel Ruggeri.

The first colloquium guest speaker of the 2016-2017 school year was Ken Peterson, WWU alum, founder, and CEO of Columbia Ventures Corporation. Ken’s extensive, firsthand knowledge of entrepreneurship provided for an enlightening and educational presentation.

Rachel Ruggeri, WWU School of Business alumna and Senior VP of Global Retail Finance with Starbucks Coffee Company, came to speak at our second colloquium of the quarter. Through personal experiences and humorous anecdotes, she spoke about the importance of staying grounded and keeping family close when entering the professional world. She reminded us that there is more than one way to get where you're going, as long as you're willing to keep moving forward.

Bowers Hall Renovation: New Year, New Bowers

As the New Year begins, so will the renovations of Bowers Hall. The end of the quarter found professors busy packing, and getting ready for the move to their temporary office. Business classes are being held throughout campus, and School of Business faculty are located in the building next to the Post Office on College Ave until the renovation is complete.
Market Research Class Helps Determine the Future of the SofB

The Fall 2016 Market Research Methods Class completed a rather unique project, that may affect the future of the School of Business. Under the supervision of Professor Steven VanOrden, the market research class conducted three different surveys to determine the need and want of an online MBA program at WWU. In fact, if you are an alumni or current student, chances are that you participated in this process. The results were presented to a group of 30 administrators, professors, and project team members and will be used future Strategic Management classes.

Broken legs - Is it a trend? Attention seeking? Initiation? #bowersfraternity

In the past four months, a total of three WWU School of Business professors have been afflicted with broken bones. This leads us to wondering if this pattern is becoming a trend or just a passing phenomenon. Or perhaps Bower’s has a secret professor society in which breaking a bone is a rite of passage? Business students are determined to uncover the source of this epidemic, in fear for the safety of their beloved professors. After all, the snowy season has already begun and come winter quarter the business profs will have to walk approximately .3 miles from their temporary offices to classes each day. As you can imagine, walking across the bustling streets of College Place in the dead of winter and with a broken limb may prove to be a difficult task.

More information to follow after further investigations.

- Melanie Morales and Megan Filippello, Student Editors