Bowers Hall Groundbreaking

Now is the time to say your final goodbyes to the old Bowers Hall, as this past Winter Quarter saw the groundbreaking ceremony for the soon to be new Bowers Hall. Built in 1931, Bowers is one of the oldest buildings at Walla Walla University, the heart of the campus and the place many School of Business students have called home for the past 10 years.

On March 13, crews moved in and started demolition. Many usable items were saved for use elsewhere on the WWU campus or for nostalgia. In an effort towards sustainability, about 3,000 pounds of items like doors, trim, windows, drinking fountains, and more, were taken to Walla Walla Builders Re-Supply Store to get a new life in other projects throughout the valley.
Bowers Hall groundbreaking

Temporary School of Business office

An empty Bowers Hall lecture hall

Interior of temporary office ... very cozy

Dr. Toews teaching in Kretchmar Hall
Internship Highlight
By Lauren Heinrich

This last winter, I had the privilege and pleasure of working as an intern for the Florida Hospital Innovation Lab, also known as FHIL (pronounced “fill”). FHIL is a design-thinking lab imbedded in the Florida Hospital Orlando campus. What you find when you walk in the door is that FHIL is a high energy workplace that often feels a little more like a circus than work space. To the untrained eye, it can seem like chaos, but there is a method to the madness.

To say my first day at the lab was overwhelming is not hyperbole. At times, it felt like the facilitators were speaking a foreign language. I learned very quickly that the inspirational phrases scattered around the lab were not just decoration, but constant reminders of the philosophies taught at FHIL. For instance, the idea that “feedback is a gift” was constantly exercised. The spirit of “yes and” was guarded jealously, and everyone was encouraged to “move beyond their habitual ways of thinking and acting”. I walked away from my first day with a feeling I hadn’t felt since my first day of physics class: I didn’t even know what I didn’t know.

The next three months flew by in a flash. Every day was a new experience. Some days I would observe the FHIL facilitators, taking notes and learning how to guide groups through the design thinking process of empathy, reframing, ideation, prototyping, and finally testing. Other days, I did a lot of dishes and made a lot of coffee. Nevertheless, I wouldn’t trade away one moment of any of it.

Three months wasn’t nearly enough time to take in everything FHIL has to offer. The day I boarded the plane home, I knew I had only scratched the surface. I use the lessons I learned at FHIL every day. I feel much more confident working in a team and on group projects. The tools FHIL taught me help me tackle problems in new ways. I truly hope that someday my path will wind back to FHIL and the people that make it so special.
Broken Legs – Further Investigation
#bowersfraternity

As promised, the #bowersfraternity has been under further investigation and some promising new evidence has surfaced. In case you missed the previous article about the #bowersfraternity, we thought the fact that THREE business profs (Bond, Dressler, and Toews) suffered from broken bones in the same quarter was slightly suspicious. Determined to get to the root of this phenomenon we’ve done some investigative research. Exhibit A: Jake Mehling, former Dean of the School of Business is photographed here in the 1963 Mt. Ash yearbook with *pause for dramatic effect* A BROKEN LEG!!!! Further evidence that the #bowersfraternity really does exist, and a broken bone is in fact a rite of passage. Alternatively, it could be completely coincidental and business professors are actually just clumsy. We choose to believe the first theory and are officially closing this investigation.

Professor Attoh Completes Doctoral Degree
By Kyle Alvord

The Bowers Hall renovation isn’t the only update in the Walla Walla University School of Business this year. Johanna Attoh, assistant professor of economics and finance, recently earned her doctorate in economics from Western Michigan University.

Attoh titled her dissertation “Three Essays Assessing Global Value Chain Fragmentation on International Trade Using the World Input-Output Database,” which explores issues about world economics, specifically how fragmented supply chains affect international trade. In September 2016, she successfully defended her dissertation, adding another doctor to the School of Business faculty.

Strategic Management Presentations

This Winter Quarter the Strategic Management class, led by Professor Steven VanOrden, worked on a strategic plan for the School of Business. The class split up into two groups and made two different plans. Using the data collected from the Fall Quarter Market Research class, one plan was based on not implementing an online MBA and the other plan was based on the implementation of an online MBA.

Shoe Dog - Another quarter, another colloquium book we didn’t actually read all the way through.

While this may be true for some students, it’s safe to say that Shoe Dog, by Phil Knight, exceeded our expectations in quality, entertainment, and knowledge gained. Shoe Dog takes us behind the scenes of the founding of Nike, one of the most iconic brands in history. This tome provided insights into strategic, organizational, marketing and ethical decisions that go into the building of every business. Kudos to whoever chose this book (probably Montes). If you haven’t already, just read it!

Thanks to Melanie Morales and Megan Filippello, Class of 2017, for putting together this newsletter!

Feel free to contact us @ (509) 527-2951 or busnschool@wallawalla.edu
Congrats to the Class of 2017!