



Fall 2017

News



Rising to the occasion

For one emerging Gabelli School alumni group, participating in sustainability initiatives as students wasn't enough. The members of Rams for Impact and Social Enterprise, or RISE, consider it a responsibility to keep working on these topics after graduation.

The group focuses on three subjects that its leaders—all of whom graduated within the last two years—consider important to young Fordham alumni: environmental sustainability, civil rights, and education and mentorship.

"People are looking for purpose in work or outside of work," said Sean Sullivan, Gabelli BS '16. "We have the opportunity to harness Fordham's social capital to make meaningful connections for people."

Soon after its formation, the group sought out a tangible project: something that interested alumni could do to make a difference.



A crowdsourced fundraiser to expand the solar array on Walsh Library's rooftop was one of the first projects undertaken by the alumni group Rams for Impact and Social Enterprise.

Its leaders knew that the University had hoped to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by the end of 2017, a goal inspired by Pope Francis' guidance on caring for the environment. RISE thought Fordham might have a greater chance of succeeding with its help.

The group launched an effort on givecampus.com to raise \$50,000 to expand the solar array that sits on the roof of the Rose Hill campus's Walsh Library. By July, 113 donors, most of them young alumni, had committed nearly \$26,000 to the crowdsourced fundraiser.

"We wanted to work on something that has an immediate visible impact, but we don't just see ourselves as a fundraising group," said RISE co-leader Rebecca McSweeney, FCRH '16. "We need to see ourselves as a group that wants to contribute our time and our growing expertise and skills to make a measurable difference."

The group's next project may be a network of alumni volunteers. RISE also hopes to foster a partnership with the Gabelli School's Net Impact chapter for MBA and MS students, which,

Photo courtesy of Fordham University

according to its website, seeks a "new generation of business leaders who want to use their careers to solve the world's toughest sustainability challenges."

"We want to continue to develop our programs and initiatives based on what people care about," McSweeney added. "This is a way to begin the conversation."



One Lincoln Center senior gained valuable on-the-job experience as an intern at CBS in New York City.

Lincoln Center students win with internships

Most people don't want their work assignments to land them in court.

Dillon Rebeck, BS '18, certainly did.

Rebeck, a Judge Judy superfan, had the chance to participate in a taping of his favorite television show courtesy of his internship with CBS. The internship was one of six work experiences he completed since enrolling in the Gabelli School's undergraduate global business program when it opened at Lincoln Center in 2013.

Now starting its fourth year, the program—with concentrations in digital media and technology, global finance and business economics, healthcare management, and consumer insights—is expected to match the 93-percent job-placement rate that undergraduates in the Rose Hill business programs have posted, according to Assistant Dean Vincent DeCola, SJ.

Though internships are not mandatory for Lincoln Center students, DeCola said, they are highly recommended, "and students are usually eager to do them."

"Internships [held during] the summer between junior and senior year may help students determine their professional path," DeCola added. "Performing well almost guarantees them an offer after graduation."

Rebeck's internships at Matt Murphy Productions, CBS Casting, *The Dr. Oz Show*, *Inside Edition*, and AOL point to a career in television.

Ilya Levant, BS '19, a finance major who moved by himself from Samara, Russia, to Westchester, New York, to attend a boarding high school and then the Gabelli School's Lincoln Center program, has taken advantage of internship opportunities at the Russian bank VTB Capital and at Morgan Stanley. His position at the former gave him the chance to meet Russian oil giant Alexander Korsik of BashNefit. He attended a closed-door meeting where Korsik discussed selling state-owned parts of the company to private investors.

"This was one of the most influential people in the world sitting at the table with me—and my goal was to make sure everything went well," Levant said. "It was very interesting."



Happening here

Fordham will play host to the sixth annual OptionMetrics conference for finance researchers and practitioners on October 16.