2018-19 Kickoff, August 27

On August 27 we kicked off the 3rd year of the Pathways program. Representatives from Motorists Insurance and Wendy’s Quality Supply Chain Co-operative and Sherwin Williams attended the event. Introductions were made of each of the young women in the program and of the sponsoring companies – including General Motors and Williams Sonoma. Professors Boyer, Newsom and Dickerson described the events planned for the coming year and gave a very brief overview of each of the sponsoring companies. This year there are 12 students in the program – including a mix of 1st year and 2nd year Fisher students. A few of the program “alums” attended the event and shared their experiences with summer internships. It is hard to believe, but the first class of 8 students from 2016-17 are all now juniors, have had some very interesting experiences and summer internships – and will be attending the Fisher Career Fair to consider opportunities for their summer between junior and senior year! Stay tuned – a future newsletter will profile a few of the alums of the program and their internship experiences.
In its inaugural year as a sponsor of the program, Williams Sonoma made a special effort to meet with the students, bringing a team including Ernest Esparza, Kendra Welter, Ruchita Saluja, Caroline Hughes and Nannan Hu. The team provided an overview of Williams Sonoma Incorporated including its multiple brands such as Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, PBTeen, West Elm, Mark and Graham, and Rejuvenation. Ruchita Saluja (Fisher MBA 2018) discussed her work in profiling distribution center SKU placement and flow to improve efficiency, Kendra Welter discussed her work in the challenging area of returns and Caroline Hughes (Fisher c/o 2019) and Nannan Hu (OSU Industrial Engineering c/o 2019) discussed their internships over the summer. While the corporation is headquartered in San Francisco with annual revenues over $5 Billion, the supply chain headquarters is in Memphis. From there, a group led by COO Dean Miller (Fisher MBA 1985) designs, overseas and coordinates all aspects of supply chain including receipt of goods from manufacturers throughout the world, internal manufacturing at Sutter Street in NC and CA, and distribution of both smaller items to stores and direct to customer and furniture. Roughly 50% of Williams Sonoma revenues come through stores with a similar amount coming through ecommerce. Williams Sonoma operates major Distribution hubs in Memphis (over 2 million square feet of space), Cranbury, NJ, Dallas, and City of Industry, CA. In terms of personalization, the company offers customized products and must manage an annual spike from 350 people working in this area to over 2000 at peak in November and December. Over 50% of their business comes during this time. The Williams Sonoma team also spent 2 days at Ohio State meeting with potential employees at the Fisher Career Fair and interviewing candidates.

Future Events

- September 24 – Open, TBD
- October 8 - Visit to Wendy’s Quality Supply Chain Co-operative
- October 22 – Visit to Motorists Insurance
- November 5 – Visit to Sherwin Williams manufacturing plant
- December 3 – Open, TBD

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