Since its start in 2010, St. Lawrence University’s New York City Semester has been giving students the opportunity to gain real-world experience. “What makes the semester so distinctive are the alumni-connected internships,” says Associate Dean of International Studies Karl Schonberg. “Having somebody take you under their wing makes a big difference.”

Vasileios “Bill” Prassas ’14, who participated in the program the fall semester of his junior year, experienced these strong alumni connections first-hand. “The most influential person in my experience at Morgan Stanley was Peter Snedeker ’06,” says Prassas. “At first, I was just asking him questions about finance and investing, but as we got to know each other better, we developed a profound mentoring relationship.”

At the internship with Morgan Stanley, “I wanted to impress,” says the Greece native. “I was asking people for more work daily, making sure that my product was perfect, asking good questions.”

But Prassas feels that even more integral to his strong presence at Morgan Stanley was his aggressive attitude in developing relationships with as many people as possible. After leaving his mark, the economics and mathematics double major was offered a second internship the following summer.

“In the fall, I was the only intern at Morgan Stanley, but companies usually have very structured and competitive programs for summer interns,” says Prassas, who competed against students from Ivy League schools such as Harvard and Yale for the summer slot. “Small schools like St. Lawrence come from ‘behind’ in people’s minds, which gives us a tremendous opportunity to shine,” he says.

Prassas demonstrated this opportunity at the University of Michigan in an undergraduate stock pitch competition last fall. With a 50 percent drop in the value of their stock two days before competing, Prassas and his St. Lawrence teammates applied immense dedication, flexibility and creativity to take second place in their group among competitors like Stanford and the California Institute of Technology.

“The education we get at St. Lawrence gives us critical thinking and problem-solving skills, (which gives us) a huge advantage.”

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“The education we get at St. Lawrence gives us critical thinking and problem-solving skills,” Prassas says. “We go into the real world with a whole new perspective on things, and it’s a huge advantage.”

Prassas walked into the New York City semester thinking, “Hey, I’m here, and I’m here to stay.” He was never more right: Prassas will return to New York City after graduation for a full-time job at Morgan Stanley.

Want to Know What Career Services offers? www.stlawu.edu/studentlife/departments/career-services
ANNIE WHEELER: INTRODUCING OUR FIRST BUSINESS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

“My family owns a business at home, and it’s always been in my blood,” says Annie Wheeler ’14 of Longmeadow, Mass. So perhaps it was natural that when St. Lawrence’s new Business in the Liberal Arts major was unveiled, she was the first student to sign up.

In requiring a breadth of courses across several core areas ranging from Analytic Thinking to Social Responsibility, the new major “takes a holistic approach to business and management,” Annie explains. “It holds on to the liberal arts component of a St. Lawrence education, which I believe is very valuable. I can take it in a lot of directions. I’ve taken classes in philosophy and psychology, and I don’t think that’s typical of a business track at other institutions. And because it’s required that it be part of a double major, students will come out having taken a unique combination of courses that will (give them) options and a wide range of skills they can put to use.” To meet the double major requirement, she simply retained her French major and added Business in the Liberal Arts.

Her new major “helped shift my focus,” Annie explains. When she came to St. Lawrence, she got involved in Campus Kitchens, which provides meals to community members in Canton churches. “Its community service aspect was so rewarding that I got interested in the non-profit sector,” she says. “I’d like to intern at a large non-profit after I graduate. If I can help put a smile on one person’s face in Canton, New York, then I feel like I’ve put my strengths toward a good cause.”
GIVING GOES A LONG WAY

By Stephanie Eldon ’14

Ann and William “Biv” Balderston have been vital members of St. Lawrence University’s Parents Committee since their son John ’14 enrolled. While Ann and Biv have supported St. Lawrence financially, they have also given of their time and advice to parents of current and prospective students.

“We have contributed to every institution that any of our children are involved with, but only if we are impressed with the job that the institution is doing,” says Ann. “We feel it’s important that our children give back after they leave because it’s a way of saying thank you.”

The Balderstons make the drive from Rochester, N.Y., to campus three to four times a semester. When asked what their favorite event on campus is, it was no surprise that they said, “Family Weekend, but we love coming to the dance showcases to see John dance.”

John’s parents not only demonstrate their support; they also talk with John and his two older sisters about philanthropy. Before a recent Parents Committee meeting, Ann texted John three questions:

1. How has your experience been at SLU?
2. Would you want us to continue donating to SLU after you graduate?
3. Do you plan on giving back after graduation?

“Great, Yes, and Yes,” were John’s responses, to put it simply. “I will definitely give, even if it’s just a little every year, whether it’s financially, offering networking opportunities to students, or promoting SLU and returning to campus for events,” he said.

The Balderstons have encouraged John to support St. Lawrence not only by example, but also through pointing out the value he’s getting from his education. Biv says, “Giving back allows the University to provide other students the same opportunities.”

Also a dancer, Steph Eldon wrote this article as part of her on-campus internship in University Communications in fall 2013.

GO TO THE GAME! (STAY HOME, TOO)

Join the virtual crowd at St. Lawrence games. The Department of Athletics is webcasting more than 100 home sports contests this year. These games are shown in HD and are free!

To access the broadcasts, simply go to saintsathletics.com/broadcasts and click on the sport you’d like to watch. GO, SAINTS!
Important Dates Spring-Fall 2014
www.stlawu.edu/calendar/acad_calendar.html

SPRING SEMESTER 2014
March 7-16
Spring Break
April 26
Moving-Up Day
May 2
Classes end
May 18
COMMENCEMENT!
May 29-June 1
Reunion Weekend

SUMMERTERM
June 4 – July 2
Undergraduate Session

FALL SEMESTER 2014
August 27
First day of classes
September 26-28
FAMILY WEEKEND!
October 9-10
Mid-Semester Break*
October 24-26
Homecoming
November 21-30
Thanksgiving Break*
December 11
Classes end

This calendar is subject to revision by the University.
*Residences are open and meals are available during Mid-Semester Break; residences and meals are not available during Thanksgiving recess.