

## ***THE FACES OF COE***

Welcome COE Alumni! As the now five-year old COE concentration at Brown continues to grow, we want to give you, COE's young alumni, a means of keeping up on the news and successes of the program. This newsletter is the inaugural edition of what will become a regular production. Over the past five years, the COE concentration has experienced significant growth, offering new academic and extracurricular programs. It is our hope that this newsletter will give you a connection to the exciting endeavors taking place in the program, both inside and outside the classroom, as well as to your fellow alumni. It is the innovative work of our students, faculty, and alumni that makes COE such a unique program and we hope that this newsletter will provide a forum for featuring their various endeavors. In this first edition, *The Faces of COE*, we focus on individual profiles of the new COE graduates and young alumni. The broad spectrum of work that our students are doing in service of both their local communities and the global world is truly remarkable. We also want to take a moment to direct you to our website: <http://coe.brown.edu>. Here, you can find more frequent updates on our various activities. This year, for instance, we celebrated the fiftieth teaching anniversary of one of our most beloved faculty members, Professor Barrett Hazeltine. On the website, we profile some of his inspiring work. So again, welcome. We hope that you enjoy the stories of COE that you, as alumni, helped make a reality.

### ***THE NEW GRADUATING CLASS***

#### **Christopher Hardy**

##### *PERSPECTIVE*



Oxford. India. Providence. Christopher Hardy has, quite literally, seen the best of all worlds during his time as a COE concentrator. Chris traveled to Mumbai in May of 2008 to become one of eight COE students in the "Internship in India" program and then spent the 2008-2009 academic year studying at Oxford University. During this single year, Chris gain hands-on business experience in a rapidly developing country and had the opportunity to immerse himself in the traditional academic tutorial system at Oxford. The diversity of his year abroad provided Chris the experiences that would help make his senior year so outstanding. He was able to serve as a TA for the new Social Entrepreneurship Capstone course, work as a research assistant for Brown's Technology Ventures Office, and complete a senior thesis in organizational studies. The mix of pragmatic and theoretical education that Chris received both at Brown and abroad has made him think seriously about graduate school, where he can continue his academic endeavors.

#### **Kelly Murguia**

##### *SERVICE*



For Kelly, joining the newly formed Brown University Women in Business was an obvious decision, one that grew directly out of her desire to use her COE concentration to help serve various communities. "The BWIB club," she smiles, "is an organization through which COE concentrators and alumni can share their business knowledge with each other and with students outside the COE community. Our main goal is to help students learn how to become financially sustainable, preparing them for life after Brown." Kelly takes the idea of social entrepreneurship seriously. Her curricular history also reflects this interest: she was a member of the first Social Entrepreneurship Capstone course. For her, using the diverse leadership skills that she gained at Brown to serve the

community is only natural. It comes as no surprise, then, that Kelly has decided to join Teach for America. She sees the changing job market as an opportunity to pursue more “non-traditional” career paths for COE students, like teaching: “The upside of the recent changes in the global marketplace is that students can feel free to pursue our passions. We can reflect on how our skills can best be used and how we can help cause growth and change. For me, this reflection led to a decision to serve with Teach for America.”

## **Alexandra Giordano**

### *RESEARCH*



One of four 2010 graduating COE students to author an honors thesis, Allie spent her senior year working to understand the needs of veterans as they reintegrate into civilian life. The education that Allie gained in the concentration allowed her to tackle the complex issue of veteran care, considering both its financial and social components. In her various COE courses, Allie says, “I learned to approach a subject from multiple perspectives.” She worked to understand the nature of the complex and often fraught relationship between VA services and non-profits, identifying the particular strengths of each organization. With this knowledge, Allie proposed a new system of “partnership and co-dependence” between these various organizations, one that would best utilize the specialized skills of each in order to maximize efficiency and comprehensiveness in future veteran care. Deeply invested in this issue, Allie hopes to continue her work through future employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, State Department, or a non-profit organization.

## **Sara Azout**

### *INITIATIVE*



It is impossible to overstate the enthusiasm that Sara Azout, the recipient of this year’s Sovereign Santander Academic Excellence Award, has for her volunteer work as a Loan Officer at the first Brown student-founded microfinance company, the Capital Good Fund: “I watched as the Fund began as a small concept and grew into a \$50,000 loan portfolio in one year.” For Sara, one of the biggest advantages to the COE concentration is that it encourages students in their self-driven initiatives, like the Capital Good Fund. And having managed a number of loans with the Capital Good Fund, Sara knows firsthand the immense impact that these initiatives can have on a community: “The COE students involved in the Fund take what they’ve learned in the classroom and use it to help serve people in our community who suffer from real challenges, people who simply need one small opportunity—in some cases, just a \$500 loan—to regain independence.” Now off to work for Barclays Capital as an analyst in the Global Capital Markets, Sara plans to take what she’s learned from her experiences at Brown to become a socially conscious leader in the business world. It is, she says, important to remember that “America was founded as a small-business economy. We need to give people the tools to adapt to a rapidly-changing world and teach them how to be self-sustainable.”

## ***FAMILIAR FACES: THE ALUMNI OF COE***

### **Elisabeth Kruger '07**

*Business Management Lead at JP Morgan India Pvt. Ltd.*

#### **GLOBAL THOUGHT**



Asked to give her best career advice to current Brown COE concentrators, Lis Kruger '07 exclaims: “Think Big!” Lis has certainly taken this advice to heart. This past April, she moved to Mumbai in order to help set the strategy for J.P. Morgan’s development and growth in the area. For Lis, this decision represented a significant step outside of her comfort zone. But as always, with great risk can come great reward. This new position, with its unique set of responsibilities, has made Lis ‘think big’ about her own career: “my current job,” she says, “forces me to stretch the limits of what I thought I could do at this point in my career...it has been an incredible opportunity to learn about the company and for my own personal growth.” It was, Lis thinks, her experiences at Brown that helped prepare her to step out of her comfort zone and be able to ‘think big’ about her career. She was one of the first India interns in the COE program, an international experience that helped prepare for a global career. Lis also believes that her education within the Brown classrooms gave her the fundamentals for the type of large-scale analysis that her career requires: “the backbone of successful leadership in the business world,” she says, “comes down to two main skills: outside-the-box thinking and the ability to look beyond immediate challenges to find creative solutions. COE allows its students to cultivate these strengths early in their careers.” By encouraging its students to develop their own start-ups and by supporting their endeavors, the COE concentration produces passionate, innovative, and knowledgeable entrepreneurs who can “take an idea and really run with it.” As Lis says, “one never really stops being a student.” Through her constant drive for professional development and personal growth and her enthusiastic willingness to stretch her own limits, Lis certainly embodies this philosophy.

### **Alexander Baker '09**

*Analyst, Altman Valandrie & Company*

#### **COMING FULL CIRCLE**



Two years into his education at Brown, Alex Baker '09 was a political science concentrator, only one class away from finishing his requirements. Then he took a course with Professor Danny Warshay. “It may sound corny,” Alex says, “but Danny’s class, ‘The Entrepreneurial Process,’ was a turning point for me. It introduced me to what could be accomplished by innovative entrepreneurship and got me excited about the case-study method of learning.” After the course, Alex added a COE concentration to his study plans. Alex is currently an analyst with Boston-based Altman Valandrie & Company, a boutique consulting firm that specializes in telecommunications, media, and technology. It may come as no surprise that Alex ended up with this specific company since, as he puts it, “I was always kind of a techie in college.” While at Brown, Alex combined this interest in technology with his drive toward entrepreneurship, creating the start-up company “Minds in Motion Electronics” with five other students. The company sought to integrate electroencephalography (EEG) technology into video game products with the ultimate aim of creating fun and immersive educational gaming experiences. Although the company dissolved after Alex and the other founders pursued other career routes, he considers it a “very successful failure.” “The experience of finding out what did and did not work in a business plan has made me a better consultant.” In talking to

Alex, one can hear the passion that he has for his position at Altman Valandrie & Co: “It is an incredible opportunity,” he says, “to be a young, recent college graduate, and to be able to cultivate the knowledge and skills necessary to give advice to business leaders from Fortune 500 companies.” Just this summer, Alex had the chance to use what he learned at his firm over the past year, as he accompanied Danny Warshay to Tel Aviv University to serve as a Teaching Assistant for his former professor in the Kellogg-Recanati International Executive MBA Program.

### **Jonathan Tam '08**

*Equities Salestrader, Goldman Sachs, Hong Kong*

#### *CONNECTEDNESS*



Talking to Jonathan Tam '08 from his office in Hong Kong is a reminder of just how strong the connection between Brown and its worldwide alumni really is. Jonathan is currently a salestrader in the equities division of Goldman Sachs, Hong Kong, but the fact that he is 8,000 miles from Providence does not lessen the investment that he has in the Brown COE program. In addition to maintaining the typical alumni ties to his alma mater, he is currently serving as a mentor for Brown students participating in the new COE internship in Hong Kong. Like the established summer internships in India, the Hong Kong internship program works to prepare COE students for a career in a global business world. Jonathan is currently mentoring the first Brown intern to arrive in Hong Kong, James Shapiro '10, who is working at the investment group Ajia Partners, Inc. When asked why he works so hard at maintaining these connections to Brown and, in particular, the COE program, Jonathan says that he enjoys being involved in the ongoing development of a program that gave him a holistic education in economics and entrepreneurship, one that allowed him to gain practical experience in the business world. “One of the most important elements of my time at Brown was the experience of my COE capstone project. With the assistance of Engineering Professor, J.M. Calo, my team developed CHMR Solutions, a company that utilized technology to extract heavy metals in liquid form from brownfields. This capstone gave me the practical experience with entrepreneurship that prepared me well for the job market.” Through his continued work with the COE internship program and his generous mentorship of other Brown graduates, Jonathan seems determined to help future students gain these same experiences and opportunities.

### **Jenna White '09**

*Marketing Coordinator, Enservio, Greater Boston Area*

#### *MAKING YOUR MARK*



Before she left Brown, Jenna White '09 helped found the COE Departmental Undergraduate Group, or DUG. Since at the time COE was still such a new program, Jenna saw the DUG as an exciting opportunity to gather students together so that they might talk about ways to really make the program their own: “I think the fact that the concentration was new was a positive attribute for me—it allowed the students to feel like we could help shape the program.” Jenna has certainly left her mark on the COE program, both through the work she did to start the DUG while at Brown, and the work that she's done to help current Brown students now that she has graduated. In spite of her busy schedule as a marketing coordinator at Enservio in the Boston area, Jenna frequently gives back to the Brown community. This past year, she helped organize a “Case Mock-A-Thon,” in which students were given the opportunity to practice their case

interview skills with professionals in the consulting and business sectors. It is clear that she is devoted to helping other students gain the experience to “make their mark,” just as she has. Jenna is now being given the opportunity to lead in her own professional career: this year, she had the chance to take ownership of a thought-leadership summit that Enservio runs for some of the nation’s top executives. From the initial invitation design to on-site administration, Jenna led the summit’s production, leaving her own mark on the program and establishing her reputation as a leader. As Jenna says, having this experience was a hugely rewarding professional endeavor: “the management team’s confidence in me was a huge boost...I was so lucky to have the chance to roll up my sleeves and really jump into a challenge.”